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(54) Title: HIGH LEVEL EXPRESSION OF PROTEINS

(57) Abstract

The invention features a synthetic gene encoding a protein normally expressed in a mammalian cell or eukaryotic cell wherein at least one non-preferred or less preferred codon in the natural gene encoding the mammalian protein has been replaced by a preferred codon encoding the same amino acid.

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1  GAATTCAACGC GTAAGCTTGC CGCCACCATG GTGAGCAAGG GCGAGGGAGCT
51  GTTCACCGGG GTGGTCCCCA TCCCTGGTCGA CCTGGACGGC GACGTGAACG
101  GCCACAAGTT CAGCGTGTCC GGCAGGGGG AGGGCGATGC CACCTACGGC
151  AACCTGACCC TGAAGTTCAT CTGCACCACC GGCAAGCTGC CGTGGCCCTG
201  GCCCCACCTC GTGACCACCT TCAGCTACGG CGTGCAGTGC TTCAGCCGCT
251  ACCCCGACCA CATGAAGCAG CACGACTTCT TCAAGTCCGC CATGCCGAA
301  GGCTACGTCC AGGAGCGCAC CATCTTCPTC AAGGACGACG GCAACTACAA
351  GACCCGGGCC GAGGTGAAGT TCGAGGGCGA CACCCCTGGTG AACCGCATCG
401  AGCTGAAGGG CATCGACTTC AAGGAGGACG GCAACATCCT GGGGCACAAG
451  CTGGAGTACA ACTACAACAG CCACAAACGTC TATATCATGG CCGACAAAGCA
501  GAAGAACGGGC ATCAAGGTGA ACTTCAGAT CCCCCACAAAC ATCGAGGACG
551  GCAGCGTGCA GCTGGCGAC CACTACCAAGC AGAACACCCCC CATCGGGCAC
601  GGCCCCGTGC TGCTGGCCGA CAACCACTAC CTGACCCACCC AGTCCGGCCCT
651  GAGCAAAGAC CCCAACGAGA AGCGGGATCA CATGGTCCTG CTGGAGTTCG
701  TGACCGCCGC CGGGATCACT CACGGCATGG ACCAGCTGTA CAAGTAAAGC
751  GGCCGGGAT CC  (SEQ ID NO: 40)

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HIGH LEVEL EXPRESSION OF PROTEINSField of the Invention

5 The invention concerns genes and methods for expressing eukaryotic and viral proteins at high levels in eukaryotic cells.

Background of the Invention

10 Expression of eukaryotic gene products in prokaryotes is sometimes limited by the presence of codons that are infrequently used in *E. coli*. Expression of such genes can be enhanced by systematic substitution of the endogenous codons with codons over represented in highly expressed prokaryotic genes (Robinson et al. 15 1984). It is commonly supposed that rare codons cause pausing of the ribosome, which leads to a failure to complete the nascent polypeptide chain and a uncoupling of transcription and translation. The mRNA 3' end of the stalled ribosome is exposed to cellular ribonucleases, 20 which decreases the stability of the transcript.

Summary of the Invention

The invention features a synthetic gene encoding a protein normally expressed in a mammalian cell or other eukaryotic cell wherein at least one non-preferred or 25 less preferred codon in the natural gene encoding the protein has been replaced by a preferred codon encoding the same amino acid.

Preferred codons are: Ala (gcc); Arg (cgc); Asn (aac); Asp (gac) Cys (tgc); Gln (cag); Gly (ggc); His (cac); Ile (atc); Leu (ctg); Lys (aag); Pro (ccc); Phe (ttc); Ser (agc); Thr (acc); Tyr (tac); and Val (gtg). 30 Less preferred codons are: Gly (ggg); Ile (att); Leu (ctc); Ser (tcc); Val (gtc). All codons which do not fit the description of preferred codons or less preferred 35 codons are non-preferred codons. In general, the degree

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of preference of particular codon is indicated by the prevalence of the codon in highly expressed human genes as indicated in Table 1 under the heading "High." For example, "atc" represents 77% of the Ile codons in highly expressed mammalian genes and is the preferred Ile codon; "att" represents 18% of the Ile codons in highly expressed mammalian genes and is the less preferred Ile codon. The sequence "ata" represents only 5% of the Ile codons in highly expressed human genes as is a non-
5 preferred codon. Replacing a codon with another codon that is more prevalent in highly expressed human genes will generally increase expression of the gene in mammalian cells. Accordingly, the invention includes replacing a less preferred codon with a preferred codon
10 as well as replacing a non-preferred codon with a preferred or less preferred codon.
15

By "protein normally expressed in a mammalian cell" is meant a protein which is expressed in mammalian under natural conditions. The term includes genes in the
20 mammalian genome such as Factor VIII, Factor IX, interleukins, and other proteins. The term also includes genes which are expressed in a mammalian cell under disease conditions such as oncogenes as well as genes which are encoded by a virus (including a retrovirus)
25 which are expressed in mammalian cells post-infection. By "protein normally expressed in a eukaryotic cell" is meant a protein which is expressed in a eukaryote under natural conditions. The term also includes genes which are expressed in a mammalian cell under disease
30 conditions such as

In preferred embodiments, the synthetic gene is capable of expressing the mammalian or eukaryotic protein at a level which is at least 110%, 150%, 200%, 500%, 1,000%, 5,000% or 10,000% of that expressed by said
35 natural gene in an in vitro mammalian cell culture system

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under identical conditions (i.e., same cell type, same culture conditions, same expression vector).

Suitable cell culture systems for measuring expression of the synthetic gene and corresponding natural gene are described below. Other suitable expression systems employing mammalian cells are well known to those skilled in the art and are described in, for example, the standard molecular biology reference works noted below. Vectors suitable for expressing the synthetic and natural genes are described below and in the standard reference works described below. By "expression" is meant protein expression. Expression can be measured using an antibody specific for the protein of interest. Such antibodies and measurement techniques are well known to those skilled in the art. By "natural gene" is meant the gene sequence (including naturally occurring allelic variants) which naturally encodes the protein.

In other preferred embodiments at least 10%, 20%, 20 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, or 90% of the codons in the natural gene are non-preferred codons.

In a preferred embodiment the protein is a retroviral protein. In a more preferred embodiment the protein is a lentiviral protein. In an even more preferred embodiment the protein is an HIV protein. In other preferred embodiments the protein is gag, pol, env, gp120, or gp160. In other preferred embodiments the protein is a human protein.

The invention also features a method for preparing a synthetic gene encoding a protein normally expressed by a mammalian cell or other eukaryotic cell. The method includes identifying non-preferred and less-preferred codons in the natural gene encoding the protein and replacing one or more of the non-preferred and less-

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preferred codons with a preferred codon encoding the same amino acid as the replaced codon.

Under some circumstances (e.g., to permit introduction of a restriction site) it may be desirable

5 to replace a non-preferred codon with a less preferred codon rather than a preferred codon.

It is not necessary to replace all less preferred or non-preferred codons with preferred codons. Increased expression can be accomplished even with partial

10 replacement. Under some circumstances it may be desirable to only partially replace non-preferred codons with preferred or less preferred codons in order to obtain an intermediate level of expression.

In other preferred embodiments the invention

15 features vectors (including expression vectors) comprising one or more the synthetic genes.

By "vector" is meant a DNA molecule, derived, e.g., from a plasmid, bacteriophage, or mammalian or insect virus, into which fragments of DNA may be inserted

20 or cloned. A vector will contain one or more unique restriction sites and may be capable of autonomous replication in a defined host or vehicle organism such that the cloned sequence is reproducible. Thus, by "expression vector" is meant any autonomous element

25 capable of directing the synthesis of a protein. Such DNA expression vectors include mammalian plasmids and viruses.

The invention also features synthetic gene fragments which encode a desired portion of the protein.

30 Such synthetic gene fragments are similar to the synthetic genes of the invention except that they encode only a portion of the protein. Such gene fragments preferably encode at least 50, 100, 150, or 500 contiguous amino acids of the protein.

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In constructing the synthetic genes of the invention it may be desirable to avoid CpG sequences as these sequences may cause gene silencing.

The codon bias present in the HIV gp120 envelope gene is also present in the gag and pol proteins. Thus, replacement of a portion of the non-preferred and less preferred codons found in these genes with preferred codons should produce a gene capable of higher level expression. A large fraction of the codons in the human genes encoding Factor VIII and Factor IX are non-preferred codons or less preferred codons. Replacement of a portion of these codons with preferred codons should yield genes capable of higher level expression in mammalian cell culture.

15 The synthetic genes of the invention can be introduced into the cells of a living organism. For example, vectors (viral or non-viral) can be used to introduce a synthetic gene into cells of a living organism for gene therapy.

20 Conversely, it may be desirable to replace preferred codons in a naturally occurring gene with less-preferred codons as a means of lowering expression.

Standard reference works describing the general principles of recombinant DNA technology include Watson, 25 J.D. et al., Molecular Biology of the Gene, Volumes I and II, the Benjamin/Cummings Publishing Company, Inc., publisher, Menlo Park, CA (1987); Darnell, J.E. et al., Molecular Cell Biology, Scientific American Books, Inc., Publisher, New York, N.Y. (1986); Old, R.W., et al., 30 Principles of Gene Manipulation: An Introduction to Genetic Engineering, 2d edition, University of California Press, publisher, Berkeley, CA (1981); Maniatis, T., et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Ed. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, publisher, Cold Spring 35 Harbor, NY (1989); and Current Protocols in Molecular

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Biology, Ausubel et al., Wiley Press, New York, NY (1992).

Detailed Description

Description of the Drawings

5 Figure 1 depicts the sequence of the synthetic gp120 and a synthetic gp160 gene in which codons have been replaced by those found in highly expressed human genes.

10 Figure 2 is a schematic drawing of the synthetic gp120 (HIV-1 MN) gene. The shaded portions marked v1 to v5 indicate hypervariable regions. The filled box indicates the CD4 binding site. A limited number of the unique restriction sites are shown: H (Hind3), Nh (Nhe1), P (Pst1), Na (Nae1), M (Mlu1), R (EcoR1), A (Age1) and No (Not1). The chemically synthesized DNA fragments which served as PCR templates are shown below the gp120 sequence, along with the locations of the primers used for their amplification.

20 Figure 3 is a photograph of the results of transient transfection assays used to measure gp120 expression. Gel electrophoresis of immunoprecipitated supernatants of 293T cells transfected with plasmids expressing gp120 encoded by the IIIB isolate of HIV-1 (gp120IIIB), by the MN isolate (gp120mn), by the MN isolate modified by substitution of the endogenous leader peptide with that of the CD5 antigen (gp120mnCD5L), or by the chemically synthesized gene encoding the MN variant with the human CD5Leader (syngp120mn). Supernatants were harvested following a 12 hour labeling period 60 hours post-transfection and immunoprecipitated with CD4:IgG1 fusion protein and protein A sepharose.

30 Figure 4 is a graph depicting the results of ELISA assays used to measure protein levels in supernatants of transiently transfected 293T cells. Supernatants of 293T cells transfected with plasmids expressing gp120 encoded

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by the IIIB isolate of HIV-1 (gp120 IIIb), by the MN isolate (gp120mn), by the MN isolate modified by substitution of the endogenous leader peptide with that of CD5 antigen (gp120mn CD5L), or by the chemically synthesized gene encoding the MN variant with human CDS leader (syngp120mn) were harvested after 4 days and tested in a gp120/CD4 ELISA. The level of gp120 is expressed in ng/ml.

Figure 5, panel A is a photograph of a gel illustrating the results of a immunoprecipitation assay used to measure expression of the native and synthetic gp120 in the presence of rev in trans and the RRE in cis. In this experiment 293T cells were transiently transfected by calcium phosphate coprecipitation of 10 μ g of plasmid expressing: (A) the synthetic gp120MN sequence and RRE in cis, (B) the gp120 portion of HIV-1 IIIB, (C) the gp120 portion of HIV-1 IIIB and RRE in cis, all in the presence or absence of rev expression. The RRE constructs gp120IIIBRRE and syngp120mnRRE were generated using an Eag1/Hpa1 RRE fragment cloned by PCR from a HIV-1 HXB2 proviral clone. Each gp120 expression plasmid was cotransfected with 10 μ g of either pCMVrev or CDM7 plasmid DNA. Supernatants were harvested 60 hours post transfection, immunoprecipitated with CD4:IgG fusion protein and protein A agarose, and run on a 7% reducing SDS-PAGE. The gel exposure time was extended to allow the induction of gp120IIIBrre by rev to be demonstrated.

Figure 5, panel B is a shorter exposure of a similar experiment in which syngp120mnrrre was cotransfected with or without pCMVrev. Figure 5, panel C is a schematic diagram of the constructs used in panel A.

Figure 6 is a comparison of the sequence of the wild-type rat THY-1 gene (wt) and a synthetic rat THY-1 gene (env) constructed by chemical synthesis and having the most prevalent codons found in the HIV-1 env gene.

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Figure 7 is a schematic diagram of the synthetic ratTHY-1 gene. The solid black box denotes the signal peptide. The shaded box denotes the sequences in the precursor which direct the attachment of a phosphatidyl-
5 inositol glycan anchor. Unique restriction sites used for assembly of the THY-1 constructs are marked H (Hind3), M (Mlu1), S (Sac1) and N (Not1). The position of the synthetic oligonucleotides employed in the construction are shown at the bottom of the figure.

10 Figure 8 is a graph depicting the results of flow cytometry analysis. In this experiment 293T cells transiently transfected with either wild-type rat THY-1 (dark line), ratTHY-1 with envelope codons (light line) or vector only (dotted line). 293T cells were
15 transfected with the different expression plasmids by calcium phosphate coprecipitation and stained with anti-ratTHY-1 monoclonal antibody OX7 followed by a polyclonal FITC-conjugated anti-mouse IgG antibody 3 days after transfection.

20 Figure 9, panel A is a photograph of a gel illustrating the results of immunoprecipitation analysis of supernatants of human 293T cells transfected with either syngp120mn (A) or a construct syngp120mn.rTHY-1env which has the rTHY-1env gene in the 3' untranslated
25 region of the syngp120mn gene (B). The syngp120mn.rTHY-1env construct was generated by inserting a Not1 adapter into the blunted Hind3 site of the rTHY-1env plasmid. Subsequently, a 0.5 kb Not1 fragment containing the rTHY-1env gene was cloned into the Not1 site of the syngp120mn plasmid and tested for correct orientation. Supernatants of 35 S labeled cells were harvested 72 hours post transfection, precipitated with CD4:IgG fusion protein and protein A agarose, and run on a 7% reducing SDS-PAGE.

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Figure 9, panel B is a schematic diagram of the constructs used in the experiment depicted in panel A of FIG. 9.

Figure 10, panel A is a photograph of COS cells 5 transfected with vector only showing no GFP fluorescence.

Figure 10, panel B is a photograph of COS cells transfected with a CDM7 expression plasmid encoding native GFP engineered to include a consensus translational initiation sequence. Figure 10, panel C is 10 a photograph of COS cells transfected with an expression plasmid having the same flanking sequences and initiation consensus as in FIG. 10, panel B, but bearing a codon optimized gene sequence. Figure 10, panel D is a photograph of COS cells transfected with an expression 15 plasmid as in FIG. 10, panel C, but bearing a Thr at residue 65 in place of Ser.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Construction of a Synthetic gp120 Gene Having Codons Found in Highly Expressed Human Genes

20 A codon frequency table for the envelope precursor of the LAV subtype of HIV-1 was generated using software developed by the University of Wisconsin Genetics Computer Group. The results of that tabulation are contrasted in Table 1 with the pattern of codon usage by 25 a collection of highly expressed human genes. For any amino acid encoded by degenerate codons, the most favored codon of the highly expressed genes is different from the most favored codon of the HIV envelope precursor. Moreover a simple rule describes the pattern of favored 30 envelope codons wherever it applies: preferred codons maximize the number of adenine residues in the viral RNA. In all cases but one this means that the codon in which the third position is A is the most frequently used. In the special case of 35 serine, three codons equally contribute one A residue to

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the mRNA; together these three comprise 85% of the serine codons actually used in envelope transcripts. A particularly striking example of the A bias is found in the codon choice for arginine, in which the AGA triplet 5 comprises 88% of the arginine codons. In addition to the preponderance of A residues, a marked preference is seen for uridine among degenerate codons whose third residue must be a pyrimidine. Finally, the inconsistencies among the less frequently used variants can be accounted for by 10 the observation that the dinucleotide CpG is underrepresented; thus the third position is less likely to be G whenever the second position is C, as in the codons for alanine, proline, serine and threonine; and the CGX triplets for arginine are hardly used at all.

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TABLE 1: Codon Frequency in the HIV-1 IIIb env gene and in highly expressed human genes.

		High Env				High Env	
<u>Ala</u>	<u>GC</u>	C	53	27		<u>Cys</u>	
		T	17	18		TG	C
		A	13	50		T	68
		G	17	5			16
					<u>Gln</u>	A	32
					CA	G	84
<u>Arg</u>	<u>CG</u>	C	37	0			
		T	7	4	<u>Glu</u>	A	
		A	6	0	GA	G	
		G	21	0			25
	<u>AG</u>	A	10	88			67
		G	18	8	<u>Gly</u>	C	75
					GG	T	33
<u>Asn</u>	<u>AA</u>	C	78	30		A	50
		T	22	70		G	12
	<u>Asp</u>	C	75	33	<u>His</u>	C	13
		T	25	67	CA	T	14
						G	53
					<u>Ile</u>	C	24
					AT	T	28
<u>Leu</u>	<u>CT</u>	C	26	10		A	79
		T	5	7	<u>Ser</u>	C	25
		A	3	17	TC	T	50
		G	58	17		G	18
TT	<u>TT</u>	A	2	30		A	31
		G	6	20	AG	T	5
						A	44
<u>Lys</u>	<u>AA</u>	A	18	68	<u>Thr</u>	C	77
		G	82	32	AC	T	18
						A	34
						G	22
						T	10
						A	41
<u>Pro</u>	<u>CC</u>	C	48	27	<u> Tyr</u>	C	74
		T	19	14	TA	T	8
		A	16	55			26
		G	17	5			92
<u>Phe</u>	<u>TT</u>	C	80	26	<u>Val</u>	C	25
		T	20	74	GT	T	12
						A	9
						G	5
						A	62
						G	64
							18

Codon frequency was calculated using the GCG program established the University of Wisconsin Genetics Computer Group. Numbers represent the percentage of cases in which the particular codon is used. Codon usage frequencies of envelope genes of other HIV-1 virus isolates are comparable and show a similar bias.

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In order to produce a gp120 gene capable of high level expression in mammalian cells, a synthetic gene encoding the gp120 segment of HIV-1 was constructed (syngp120mn), based on the sequence of the most common

5 North American subtype, HIV-1 MN (Shaw et al., Science 226:1165, 1984; Gallo et al., Nature 321:119, 1986). In this synthetic gp120 gene nearly all of the native codons have been systematically replaced with codons most frequently used in highly expressed human genes (FIG. 1).

10 This synthetic gene was assembled from chemically synthesized oligonucleotides of 150 to 200 bases in length. If oligonucleotides exceeding 120 to 150 bases are chemically synthesized, the percentage of full-length product can be low, and the vast excess of material

15 consists of shorter oligonucleotides. Since these shorter fragments inhibit cloning and PCR procedures, it can be very difficult to use oligonucleotides exceeding a certain length. In order to use crude synthesis material without prior purification, single-stranded

20 oligonucleotide pools were PCR amplified before cloning. PCR products were purified in agarose gels and used as templates in the next PCR step. Two adjacent fragments could be co-amplified because of overlapping sequences at the end of either fragment. These fragments, which were

25 between 350 and 400 bp in size, were subcloned into a pCDM7-derived plasmid containing the leader sequence of the CD5 surface molecule followed by a NheI/PstI/MluI/EcoRI/BamHI polylinker. Each of the restriction enzymes in this polylinker represents a site

30 that is present at either the 5' or 3' end of the PCR-generated fragments. Thus, by sequential subcloning of each of the 4 long fragments, the whole gp120 gene was assembled. For each fragment 3 to 6 different clones were subcloned and sequenced prior to assembly. A schematic

35 drawing of the method used to construct the synthetic

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gp120 is shown in FIG. 2. The sequence of the synthetic gp120 gene (and a synthetic gp160 gene created using the same approach) is presented in FIG. 1.

The mutation rate was considerable. The most 5 commonly found mutations were short (1 nucleotide) and long (up to 30 nucleotides) deletions. In some cases it was necessary to exchange parts with either synthetic adapters or pieces from other subclones without mutation in that particular region. Some deviations from strict 10 adherence to optimized codon usage were made to accommodate the introduction of restriction sites into the resulting gene to facilitate the replacement of various segments (FIG. 2). These unique restriction sites were introduced into the gene at approximately 100 bp 15 intervals. The native HIV leader sequence was exchanged with the highly efficient leader peptide of the human CD5 antigen to facilitate secretion (Aruffo et al., *Cell*.61:1303, 1990) The plasmid used for construction is a derivative of the mammalian expression vector pCDM7 20 transcribing the inserted gene under the control of a strong human CMV immediate early promoter.

To compare the wild-type and synthetic gp120 coding sequences, the synthetic gp120 coding sequence was inserted into a mammalian expression vector and tested in 25 transient transfection assays. Several different native gp120 genes were used as controls to exclude variations in expression levels between different virus isolates and artifacts induced by distinct leader sequences. The gp120 HIV IIIb construct used as control was generated by 30 PCR using a *Sall*/*Xhol* HIV-1 HXB2 envelope fragment as template. To exclude PCR induced mutations, a *Kpn*1/*Earl* fragment containing approximately 1.2 kb of the gene was exchanged with the respective sequence from the proviral clone. The wild-type gp120mn constructs used as controls 35 were cloned by PCR from HIV-1 MN infected C8166 cells

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(AIDS Repository, Rockville, MD) and expressed gp120 either with a native envelope or a CD5 leader sequence. Since proviral clones were not available in this case, two clones of each construct were tested to avoid PCR 5 artifacts. To determine the amount of secreted gp120 semi-quantitatively supernatants of 293T cells transiently transfected by calcium phosphate co- precipitation were immunoprecipitated with soluble CD4:immunoglobulin fusion protein and protein A 10 sepharose.

The results of this analysis (FIG. 3) show that the synthetic gene product is expressed at a very high level compared to that of the native gp120 controls. The molecular weight of the synthetic gp120 gene was 15 comparable to control proteins (FIG. 3) and appeared to be in the range of 100 to 110 kd. The slightly faster migration can be explained by the fact that in some tumor cell lines like 293T glycosylation is either not complete or altered to some extent.

20 To compare expression more accurately gp120 protein levels were quantitated using a gp120 ELISA with CD4 in the demobilized phase. This analysis shows (FIG. 4) that ELISA data were comparable to the immunoprecipitation data, with a gp120 concentration of 25 approximately 125 ng/ml for the synthetic gp120 gene, and less than the background cutoff (5 ng/ml) for all the native gp120 genes. Thus, expression of the synthetic gp120 gene appears to be at least one order of magnitude higher than wild-type gp120 genes. In the experiment 30 shown the increase was at least 25 fold.

The Role of rev in gp120 Expression

Since rev appears to exert its effect at several steps in the expression of a viral transcript, the possible role of non-translational effects in the 35 improved expression of the synthetic gp120 gene was

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tested. First, to rule out the possibility that negative signals elements conferring either increased mRNA degradation or nucleic retention were eliminated by changing the nucleotide sequence, cytoplasmic mRNA levels 5 were tested. Cytoplasmic RNA was prepared by NP40 lysis of transiently transfected 293T cells and subsequent elimination of the nuclei by centrifugation. Cytoplasmic RNA was subsequently prepared from lysates by multiple phenol extractions and precipitation, spotted on 10 nitrocellulose using a slot blot apparatus, and finally hybridized with an envelope-specific probe.

Briefly, cytoplasmic mRNA 293 cells transfected with CDM&, gp120 IIIb, or syngp120 was isolated 36 hours post transfection. Cytoplasmic RNA of Hela cells 15 infected with wild-type vaccinia virus or recombinant virus expressing gp120 IIIb or the synthetic gp120 gene was under the control of the 7.5 promoter was isolated 16 hours post infection. Equal amounts were spotted on nitrocellulose using a slot blot device and hybridized 20 with randomly labeled 1.5 kb gp120IIIb and syngp120 fragments or human beta-actin. RNA expression levels were quantitated by scanning the hybridized membranes with a phosphoimager. The procedures used are described in greater detail below.

25 This experiment demonstrated that there was no significant difference in the mRNA levels of cells transfected with either the native or synthetic gp120 gene. In fact, in some experiments cytoplasmic mRNA level of the synthetic gp120 gene was even lower than 30 that of the native gp120 gene.

These data were confirmed by measuring expression from recombinant vaccinia viruses. Human 293 cells or Hela cells were infected with vaccinia virus expressing wild-type gp120 IIIb or syngp120mn at a multiplicity of 35 infection of at least 10. Supernatants were harvested 24

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hours post infection and immunoprecipitated with CD4:immunoglobulin fusion protein and protein A sepharose. The procedures used in this experiment are described in greater detail below.

5 This experiment showed that the increased expression of the synthetic gene was still observed when the endogenous gene product and the synthetic gene product were expressed from vaccinia virus recombinants under the control of the strong mixed early and late 7.5k 10 promoter. Because vaccinia virus mRNAs are transcribed and translated in the cytoplasm, increased expression of the synthetic envelope gene in this experiment cannot be attributed to improved export from the nucleus. This experiment was repeated in two additional human cell 15 types, the kidney cancer cell line 293 and HeLa cells. As with transfected 293T cells, mRNA levels were similar in 293 cells infected with either recombinant vaccinia virus.

Codon Usage in Lentivirus

20 Because it appears that codon usage has a significant impact on expression in mammalian cells, the codon frequency in the envelope genes of other retroviruses was examined. This study found no clear pattern of codon preference between retroviruses in 25 general. However, if viruses from the lentivirus genus, to which HIV-1 belongs to, were analyzed separately, codon usage bias almost identical to that of HIV-1 was found. A codon frequency table from the envelope glycoproteins of a variety of (predominantly type C) 30 retroviruses excluding the lentiviruses was prepared, and compared a codon frequency table created from the envelope sequences of four lentiviruses not closely related to HIV-1 (caprine arthritis encephalitis virus, equine infectious anemia virus, feline immunodeficiency 35 virus, and visna virus) (Table 2). The codon usage

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pattern for lentiviruses is strikingly similar to that of HIV-1, in all cases but one, the preferred codon for HIV-1 is the same as the preferred codon for the other lentiviruses. The exception is proline, which is encoded 5 by CCT in 41% of non-HIV lentiviral envelope residues, and by CCA in 40% of residues, a situation which clearly also reflects a significant preference for the triplet ending in A. The pattern of codon usage by the non-lentiviral envelope proteins does not show a similar 10 predominance of A residues, and is also not as skewed toward third position C and G residues as is the codon usage for the highly expressed human genes. In general non-lentiviral retroviruses appear to exploit the different codons more equally, a pattern they share with 15 less highly expressed human genes.

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TABLE 2: Codon frequency in the envelope gene of lentiviruses (lenti) and non-lentiviral retroviruses (other).

		Other Lenti		Other Lenti			
<u>Ala</u>	<u>GC</u>	C	45	13			
		T	26	37			
		A	20	46			
		G	9	3			
<u>Arg</u>	<u>CG</u>	C	14	2			
		T	6	3			
		A	16	5			
		G	17	3			
	<u>AG</u>	A	31	51			
		G	15	26			
<u>Asn</u>	<u>AA</u>	C	49	31			
		T	51	69			
<u>Asp</u>	<u>GA</u>	C	55	33			
		T	51	69			
<u>Leu</u>	<u>CT</u>	C	22	8			
		T	14	9			
		A	21	16			
		G	19	11			
	<u>TT</u>	A	15	41			
		G	10	16			
<u>Lys</u>	<u>AA</u>	A	60	63			
		G	40	37			
<u>Pro</u>	<u>CC</u>	C	42	14			
		T	30	41			
		A	20	40			
		G	7	5			
<u>Phe</u>	<u>TT</u>	C	52	25			
		T	48	75			
					<u>Cys</u>	<u>TG</u>	<u>C</u>
							T
							A
							G
					<u>Gln</u>	<u>CA</u>	
							A
							G
					<u>Glu</u>	<u>GA</u>	
							A
							G
					<u>Gly</u>	<u>GG</u>	
							C
							T
							A
					<u>His</u>	<u>CA</u>	
							C
							T
					<u>Ile</u>	<u>AT</u>	
							C
							T
							A
					<u>Ser</u>	<u>TC</u>	
							C
							T
							A
							G
					<u>AG</u>	<u>CG</u>	
							C
							T
					<u>Thr</u>	<u>AC</u>	
							C
							T
							A
							G
					<u>Tyr</u>	<u>TA</u>	
							C
							T
					<u>Val</u>	<u>GT</u>	
							C
							T
							A
							G

Codon frequency was calculated using the GCG program established by the University of Wisconsin Genetics Computer Group. Numbers represent the percentage in which a particular codon is used. Codon usage of non-lentiviral retroviruses was compiled from the envelope precursor sequences of bovine leukemia virus feline leukemia virus, human T-cell leukemia virus type I, human T-cell lymphotropic virus type II, the mink cell focus-forming isolate of murine leukemia virus (MuLV), the Rauscher spleen focus-forming isolate, the 10A1 isolate, the 4070A amphotropic isolate and the myeloproliferative leukemia

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virus isolate, and from rat leukemia virus, simian sarcoma virus, simian T-cell leukemia virus, leukemogenic retrovirus T1223/B and gibbon ape leukemia virus. The codon frequency tables for the non-HIV, non-SIV lentiviruses were compiled from the envelope precursor sequences for caprine arthritis encephalitis virus, equine infectious anemia virus, feline immunodeficiency virus, and visna virus.

In addition to the prevalence of A containing codons, lentiviral codons adhere to the HIV pattern of strong CpG under representation, so that the third position for alanine, proline, serine and threonine 5 triplets is rarely G. The retroviral envelope triplets show a similar, but less pronounced, under representation of CpG. The most obvious difference between lentiviruses and other retroviruses with respect to CpG prevalence lies in the usage of the CGX variant of arginine 10 triplets, which is reasonably frequently represented among the retroviral envelope coding sequences, but is almost never present among the comparable lentivirus sequences.

Differences in rev Dependence Between Native and 15 Synthetic gp120

To examine whether regulation by rev is connected to HIV-1 codon usage, the influence of rev on the expression of both native and synthetic gene was investigated. Since regulation by rev requires the rev- 20 binding site RRE in cis, constructs were made in which this binding site was cloned into the 3' untranslated region of both the native and the synthetic gene. These plasmids were co-transfected with rev or a control plasmid in trans into 293T cells, and gp120 expression 25 levels in supernatants were measured semiquantitatively by immunoprecipitation. The procedures used in this experiment are described in greater detail below.

As shown in FIG. 5, panel A and FIG. 5, panel B, rev up regulates the native gp120 gene, but has no effect 30 on the expression of the synthetic gp120 gene. Thus, the

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action of rev is not apparent on a substrate which lacks the coding sequence of endogenous viral envelope sequences.

5 Expression of a synthetic rat THY-1 gene with HIV envelope codons

The above-described experiment suggest that in fact "envelope sequences" have to be present for rev regulation. In order to test this hypothesis, a 10 synthetic version of the gene encoding the small, typically highly expressed cell surface protein, rat THY-1 antigen, was prepared. The synthetic version of the rat THY-1 gene was designed to have a codon usage like that of HIV gp120. In designing this synthetic gene 15 AUUUA sequences, which are associated with mRNA instability, were avoided. In addition, two restriction sites were introduced to simplify manipulation of the resulting gene (FIG 6). This synthetic gene with the HIV envelope codon usage (rTHY-1env) was generated using 20 three 150 to 170 mer oligonucleotides (FIG. 7). In contrast to the syngp120mn gene, PCR products were directly cloned and assembled in pUC12, and subsequently cloned into pCDM7.

25 Expression levels of native rTHY-1 and rTHY-1 with the HIV envelope codons were quantitated by immunofluorescence of transiently transfected 293T cells. FIG 8 shows that the expression of the native THY-1 gene is almost two orders of magnitude above the background level of the control transfected cells (pCDM7). In 30 contrast, expression of the synthetic rat THY-1 is substantially lower than that of the native gene (shown by the shift to of the peak towards a lower channel number).

35 To prove that no negative sequence elements promoting mRNA degradation were inadvertently introduced, a construct was generated in which the rTHY-1env gene was

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cloned at the 3' end of the synthetic gp120 gene (FIG. 9, panel B). In this experiment 293T cells were transfected with either the syngp120mn gene or the syngp120/rat THY-1 env fusion gene (syngp120mn.rTHY-1env). Expression was 5 measured by immunoprecipitation with CD4:IgG fusion protein and protein A agarose. The procedures used in this experiment are described in greater detail below.

Since the synthetic gp120 gene has an UAG stop codon, rTHY-1env is not translated from this transcript. 10 If negative elements conferring enhanced degradation were present in the sequence, gp120 protein levels expressed from this construct should be decreased in comparison to the syngp120mn construct without rTHY-1env. FIG. 9, panel A, shows that the expression of both constructs is 15 similar, indicating that the low expression must be linked to translation.

Rev-dependent expression of synthetic rat THY-1 gene with envelope codons

To explore whether rev is able to regulate 20 expression of a rat THY-1 gene having env codons, a construct was made with a rev-binding site in the 3' end of the rTHY1env open reading frame. To measure rev-responsiveness of the a rat THY-1env construct having a 3' RRE, human 293T cells were cotransfected 25 ratTHY-1envrre and either CDM7 or pCMVrev. At 60 hours post transfection cells were detached with 1 mM EDTA in PBS and stained with the OX-7 anti rTHY-1 mouse monoclonal antibody and a secondary FITC-conjugated antibody. Fluorescence intensity was measured using a 30 EPICS XL cytofluorometer. These procedures are described in greater detail below.

In repeated experiments, a slight increase of rTHY-1env expression was detected if rev was cotransfected with the rTHY-1env gene. To further 35 increase the sensitivity of the assay system a construct

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expressing a secreted version of rTHY-1env was generated. This construct should produce more reliable data because the accumulated amount of secreted protein in the supernatant reflects the result of protein production 5 over an extended period, in contrast to surface expressed protein, which appears to more closely reflect the current production rate. A gene capable of expressing a secreted form was prepared by PCR using forward and reverse primers annealing 3' of the endogenous leader 10 sequence and 5' of the sequence motif required for phosphatidylinositol glycan anchorage respectively. The PCR product was cloned into a plasmid which already contained a CD5 leader sequence, thus generating a construct in which the membrane anchor has been deleted 15 and the leader sequence exchanged by a heterologous (and probably more efficient) leader peptide.

The rev-responsiveness of the secreted form ratTHY-1env was measured by immunoprecipitation of supernatants of human 293T cells cotransfected with a 20 plasmid expressing a secreted form of ratTHY-1env and the RRE sequence in cis (rTHY-1envPI-rre) and either CDM7 or pCMVrev. The rTHY-1envPI-RRE construct was made by PCR using the oligonucleotide:
cgcggggctagcgcaaagagtaataagtttaac (SEQ ID NO:38) as a 25 forward primer, the oligonucleotide:
cgcggatcccttgtatTTgtactaata (SEQ ID NO:39) as reverse primer, and the synthetic rTHY-1env construct as template. After digestion with NheI and NotI the PCR fragment was cloned into a plasmid containing CD5 leader 30 and RRE sequences. Supernatants of ³⁵S labeled cells were harvested 72 hours post transfection, precipitated with a mouse monoclonal antibody OX7 against rTHY-1 and anti mouse IgG sepharose, and run on a 12% reducing SDS-PAGE.

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In this experiment the induction of rTHY-1env by rev was much more prominent and clear-cut than in the above-described experiment and strongly suggests that rev is able to translationally regulate transcripts that are 5 suppressed by low-usage codons.

Rev-independent expression of a rTHY-1env:immunoglobulin fusion protein

To test whether low-usage codons must be present throughout the whole coding sequence or whether a short 10 region is sufficient to confer rev-responsiveness, a rTHY-1env:immunoglobulin fusion protein was generated. In this construct the rTHY-1env gene (without the sequence motif responsible for phosphatidylinositol 15 glycan anchorage) is linked to the human IgG1 hinge, CH2 and CH3 domains. This construct was generated by anchor PCR using primers with NheI and BamHI restriction sites and rTHY-1env as template. The PCR fragment was cloned into a plasmid containing the leader sequence of the CD5 surface molecule and the hinge, CH2 and CH3 parts of 20 human IgG1 immunoglobulin. A Hind3/Eag1 fragment containing the rTHY-1envgen1 insert was subsequently cloned into a pCDM7-derived plasmid with the RRE sequence.

To measure the response of the rTHY-1env/ 25 immunoglobulin fusion gene (rTHY-1envgen1) to rev human 293T cells cotransfected with rTHY-1envgen1 and either pCDM7 or pCMVrev. The rTHY-1envgen1 construct was made by anchor PCR using forward and reverse primers with NheI and BamH1 restriction sites respectively. The PCR 30 fragment was cloned into a plasmid containing a CD5 leader and human IgG1 hinge, CH2 and CH3 domains. Supernatants of ³⁵S labeled cells were harvested 72 hours post transfection, precipitated with a mouse monoclonal antibody OX7 against rTHY-1 and anti mouse IgG sepharose, 35 and run on a 12% reducing SDS-PAGE. The procedures used are described in greater detail below.

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As with the product of the rTHY-1envPI- gene, this rTHY-1env/immunoglobulin fusion protein is secreted into the supernatant. Thus, this gene should be responsive to rev-induction. However, in contrast to rTHY-1envPI-, 5 cotransfection of rev in trans induced no or only a negligible increase of rTHY-1envg1 expression.

The expression of rTHY-1:immunoglobulin fusion protein with native rTHY-1 or HIV envelope codons was measured by immunoprecipitation. Briefly, human 293T 10 cells transfected with either rTHY-1envg1 (env codons) or rTHY-1wteg1 (native codons). The rTHY-1wteg1 construct was generated in manner similar to that used for the rTHY-1envg1 construct, with the exception that a plasmid containing the native rTHY-1 gene was used as 15 template. Supernatants of 35 S labeled cells were harvested 72 hours post transfection, precipitated with a mouse monoclonal antibody OX7 against rTHY-1 and anti mouse IgG sepharose, and run on a 12% reducing SDS-PAGE. THE procedures used in this experiment are described in 20 greater detail below.

Expression levels of rTHY-1envg1 were decreased in comparison to a similar construct with wild-type rTHY-1 as the fusion partner, but were still considerably higher than rTHY-1env. Accordingly, both parts of the 25 fusion protein influenced expression levels. The addition of rTHY-1env did not restrict expression to an equal level as seen for rTHY-1env alone. Thus, regulation by rev appears to be ineffective if protein expression is not almost completely suppressed.

30 Codon preference in HIV-1 envelope genes

Direct comparison between codon usage frequency of HIV envelope and highly expressed human genes reveals a striking difference for all twenty amino acids. One simple measure of the statistical significance of this 35 codon preference is the finding that among the nine amino

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acids with two fold codon degeneracy, the favored third residue is A or U in all nine. The probability that all nine of two equiprobable choices will be the same is approximately 0.004, and hence by any conventional 5 measure the third residue choice cannot be considered random. Further evidence of a skewed codon preference is found among the more degenerate codons, where a strong selection for triplets bearing adenine can be seen. This contrasts with the pattern for highly expressed genes, 10 which favor codons bearing C, or less commonly G, in the third position of codons with three or more fold degeneracy.

The systematic exchange of native codons with codons of highly expressed human genes dramatically 15 increased expression of gp120. A quantitative analysis by ELISA showed that expression of the synthetic gene was at least 25 fold higher in comparison to native gp120 after transient transfection into human 293 cells. The concentration levels in the ELISA experiment shown were 20 rather low. Since an ELISA was used for quantification which is based on gp120 binding to CD4, only native, non-denatured material was detected. This may explain the apparent low expression. Measurement of cytoplasmic mRNA levels demonstrated that the difference in protein 25 expression is due to translational differences and not mRNA stability.

Retroviruses in general do not show a similar preference towards A and T as found for HIV. But if this family was divided into two subgroups, lentiviruses and 30 non-lentiviral retroviruses, a similar preference to A and, less frequently, T, was detected at the third codon position for lentiviruses. Thus, the availing evidence suggests that lentiviruses retain a characteristic pattern of envelope codons not because of an inherent 35 advantage to the reverse transcription or replication of

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such residues, but rather for some reason peculiar to the physiology of that class of viruses. The major difference between lentiviruses and non-complex retroviruses are additional regulatory and non-5 essentially accessory genes in lentiviruses, as already mentioned. Thus, one simple explanation for the restriction of envelope expression might be that an important regulatory mechanism of one of these additional molecules is based on it. In fact, it is known that one 10 of these proteins, rev, which most likely has homologues in all lentiviruses. Thus codon usage in viral mRNA is used to create a class of transcripts which is susceptible to the stimulatory action of rev. This hypothesis was proved using a similar strategy as above, 15 but this time codon usage was changed into the inverse direction. Codon usage of a highly expressed cellular gene was substituted with the most frequently used codons in the HIV envelope. As assumed, expression levels were considerably lower in comparison to the native molecule, 20 almost two orders of magnitude when analyzed by immunofluorescence of the surface expressed molecule (see 4.7). If rev was coexpressed in trans and a RRE element was present in cis only a slight induction was found for the surface molecule. However, if THY-1 was expressed as 25 a secreted molecule, the induction by rev was much more prominent, supporting the above hypothesis. This can probably be explained by accumulation of secreted protein in the supernatant, which considerably amplifies the rev effect. If rev only induces a minor increase for surface 30 molecules in general, induction of HIV envelope by rev cannot have the purpose of an increased surface abundance, but rather of an increased intracellular gp160 level. It is completely unclear at the moment why this should be the case.

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To test whether small subtotal elements of a gene are sufficient to restrict expression and render it rev-dependent rTHY1env:immunoglobulin fusion proteins were generated, in which only about one third of the total 5 gene had the envelope codon usage. Expression levels of this construct were on an intermediate level, indicating that the rTHY-1env negative sequence element is not dominant over the immunoglobulin part. This fusion protein was not or only slightly rev-responsive, 10 indicating that only genes almost completely suppressed can be rev-responsive.

Another characteristic feature that was found in the codon frequency tables is a striking under representation of CpG triplets. In a comparative study 15 of codon usage in *E. coli*, yeast, *drosophila* and primates it was shown that in a high number of analyzed primate genes the 8 least used codons contain all codons with the CpG dinucleotide sequence. Avoidance of codons containing this dinucleotide motif was also found in the 20 sequence of other retroviruses. It seems plausible that the reason for under representation of CpG-bearing triplets has something to do with avoidance of gene silencing by methylation of CpG cytosines. The expected number of CpG dinucleotides for HIV as a whole is about 25 one fifth that expected on the basis of the base composition. This might indicate that the possibility of high expression is restored, and that the gene in fact has to be highly expressed at some point during viral pathogenesis.

30 The results presented herein clearly indicate that codon preference has a severe effect on protein levels, and suggest that translational elongation is controlling mammalian gene expression. However, other factors may play a role. First, abundance of not maximally loaded 35 mRNA's in eukaryotic cells indicates that initiation is

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rate limiting for translation in at least some cases, since otherwise all transcripts would be completely covered by ribosomes. Furthermore, if ribosome stalling and subsequent mRNA degradation were the mechanism,

- 5 suppression by rare codons could most likely not be reversed by any regulatory mechanism like the one presented herein. One possible explanation for the influence of both initiation and elongation on translational activity is that the rate of initiation, or
- 10 access to ribosomes, is controlled in part by cues distributed throughout the RNA, such that the lentiviral codons predispose the RNA to accumulate in a pool of poorly initiated RNAs. However, this limitation need not be kinetic; for example, the choice of codons could
- 15 influence the probability that a given translation product, once initiated, is properly completed. Under this mechanism, abundance of less favored codons would incur a significant cumulative probability of failure to complete the nascent polypeptide chain. The sequestered
- 20 RNA would then be lent an improved rate of initiation by the action of rev. Since adenine residues are abundant in rev-responsive transcripts, it could be that RNA adenine methylation mediates this translational suppression.

25 Detailed Procedures

The following procedures were used in the above-described experiments.

Sequence Analysis

Sequence analyses employed the software developed

- 30 by the University of Wisconsin Computer Group.

Plasmid constructions

Plasmid constructions employed the following methods. Vectors and insert DNA was digested at a concentration of 0.5 μ g/10 μ l in the appropriate

- 35 restriction buffer for 1 - 4 hours (total reaction volume

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approximately 30 μ l). Digested vector was treated with 10% (v/v) of 1 μ g/ml calf intestine alkaline phosphatase for 30 min prior to gel electrophoresis. Both vector and insert digests (5 to 10 μ l each) were run on a 1.5% low melting agarose gel with TAE buffer. Gel slices containing bands of interest were transferred into a 1.5 ml reaction tube, melted at 65°C and directly added to the ligation without removal of the agarose. Ligations were typically done in a total volume of 25 μ l in 1x Low Buffer 1x Ligation Additions with 200-400 U of ligase, 1 μ l of vector, and 4 μ l of insert. When necessary, 5' overhanging ends were filled by adding 1/10 volume of 250 μ M dNTPs and 2-5 U of Klenow polymerase to heat inactivated or phenol extracted digests and incubating for approximately 20 min at room temperature. When necessary, 3' overhanging ends were filled by adding 1/10 volume of 2.5 mM dNTPs and 5-10 U of T4 DNA polymerase to heat inactivated or phenol extracted digests, followed by incubation at 37°C for 30 min. The following buffers were used in these reactions: 10x Low buffer (60 mM Tris HCl, pH 7.5, 60 mM MgCl₂, 50 mM NaCl, 4 mg/ml BSA, 70 mM β -mercaptoethanol, 0.02% NaN₃); 10x Medium buffer (60 mM Tris HCl, pH 7.5, 60 mM MgCl₂, 50 mM NaCl, 4 mg/ml BSA, 70 mM β -mercaptoethanol, 0.02% NaN₃); 10x High buffer (60 mM Tris HCl, pH 7.5, 60 mM MgCl₂, 50 mM NaCl, 4 mg/ml BSA, 70 mM β -mercaptoethanol, 0.02% NaN₃); 10x Ligation additions (1 mM ATP, 20 mM DTT, 1 mg/ml BSA, 10 mM spermidine); 50x TAE (2 M Tris acetate, 50 mM EDTA).

Oligonucleotide synthesis and purification

Oligonucleotides were produced on a Milligen 8750 synthesizer (Millipore). The columns were eluted with 1 ml of 30% ammonium hydroxide, and the eluted oligonucleotides were deblocked at 55°C for 6 to 12 hours. After deblocking, 150 μ l of oligonucleotide were precipitated with 10x volume of unsaturated n-butanol in

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1.5 ml reaction tubes, followed by centrifugation at 15,000 rpm in a microfuge. The pellet was washed with 70% ethanol and resuspended in 50 μ l of H₂O. The concentration was determined by measuring the optical 5 density at 260 nm in a dilution of 1:333 (1 OD₂₆₀ = 30 μ g/ml).

The following oligonucleotides were used for construction of the synthetic gp120 gene (all sequences shown in this text are in 5' to 3' direction).

10 oligo 1 forward (Nhe1): cgc ggg cta gcc acc gag aag ctg (SEQ ID NO:1).

oligo 1: acc gag aag ctg tgg gtg acc gtg tac tac ggc gtg ccc gtg tgg aag ag ag gcc acc acc acc ctg ttc tgc 15 gcc agc gac gcc aag gcg tac gac acc gag gtg cac aac gtg tgg gcc acc cag gcg tgc gtg ccc acc gac ccc aac ccc cag gag gtg gag ctc gtg aac gtg acc gag aac ttc aac at (SEQ ID NO:2).

20 oligo 1 reverse: cca cca tgt tgt tct tcc aca tgt tga agt tct c (SEQ ID NO:3).

oligo 2 forward: gac cga gaa ctt caa cat gtg gaa gaa caa cat (SEQ ID NO:4)

oligo 2: tgg aag aac aac atg gtg gag cag atg cat gag gac atc atc agc ctg tgg gac cag agc ctg aag ccc tgc 25 gtg aag ctg acc cc ctg tgc gtg acc tg aac tgc acc gac ctg agg aac acc acc aac acc ac agc acc gcc aac aac aac agc aac agc gag ggc acc atc aag ggc gag atg (SEQ ID NO:5).

oligo 2 reverse (Pst1): gtt gaa gct gca gtt ctt cat ctc gcc gcc ctt (SEQ ID NO:6).

30 oligo 3 forward (Pst1): gaa gaa ctg cag ctt caa cat cac cac cag c (SEQ ID NO:7).

oligo 3: aac atc acc acc agc atc cgc gac aag atg cag aag gag tac gcc ctg ctg tac aag ctg gat atc gtg agc atc gac aac gac agc acc agc tac cgc ctg atc tcc tgc aac 35 acc agc gtg atc acc cag gcc tgc ccc aag atc agc ttc gag

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ccc atc ccc atc cac tac tgc gcc ccc gcc ggc ttc gcc (SEQ ID NO:8).

oligo 3 reverse: gaa ctt ctt gtc ggc ggc gaa gcc ggc ggg (SEQ ID NO:9).

5 oligo 4 forward: gcg ccc ccg ccg gct tcg cca tcc tga agt gca acg aca aga agt tc (SEQ ID NO:10)

oligo 4: gcc gac aag aag ttc agc ggc aag ggc agc tgc aag aac gtg agc acc gtg cag tgc acc cac ggc atc cgg ccg gtg gtg agc acc cag ctc ctg ctg aac ggc agc ctg 10 gcc gag gag gag gtg gtg atc cgc agc gag aac ttc acc gac aac gcc aag acc atc atc gtg cac ctg aat gag agc gtg cag atc (SEQ ID NO:11)

oligo 4 reverse (Mlu1): agt tgg gac gcg tgc agt tga tct gca cgc tct c (SEQ ID NO:12).

15 oligo 5 forward (Mlu1): gag agc gtg cag atc aac tgc acg cgt ccc (SEQ ID NO:13).

oligo 5: aac tgc acg cgt ccc aac tac aac aag cgc aag cgc atc cac atc ggc ccc ggg cgc gcc ttc tac acc acc aag aac atc atc ggc acc atc ctc cag gcc cac tgc aac atc 20 tct aga (SEQ ID NO:14) .

oligo 5 reverse: gtc gtt cca ctt ggc tct aga gat gtt gca (SEQ ID NO:15).

oligo 6 forward: gca aca tct cta gag cca agt gga acg ac (SEQ ID NO:16).

25 oligo 6: gcc aag tgg aac gac acc ctg cgc cag atc gtg agc aag ctg aag gag cag ttc aag aac aag acc atc gtg ttc ac cag agc agc ggc gac ccc gag atc gtg atg cac agc ttc aac tgc ggc ggc (SEQ ID NO:17).

oligo 6 reverse (EcoR1): gca gta gaa gaa ttc gcc 30 gcc gca gtt ga (SEQ ID NO:18).

oligo 7 forward (EcoR1): tca act gcg gcg gcg aat tct tct act gc (SEQ ID NO:19).

oligo 7: ggc gaa ttc ttc tac tgc aac acc agc ccc ctg ttc aac agc acc tgg aac ggc aac aac acc tgg aac aac 35 acc acc ggc agc aac aac aat att acc ctc cag tgc aag atc

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aag cag atc atc aac atg tgg cag gag gtg ggc aag gcc atg
tat gcc ccc ccc atc gag ggc cag atc cgg tgc agc agc (SEQ
ID NO:20)

oligo 7 reverse: gca gac cgg tga tgt tgc tgc tgc
5 acc gga tct ggc cct c (SEQ ID NO:21).

oligo 8 forward: cga ggg cca gat ccg gtg cag cag
caa cat cac cgg tct g (SEQ ID NO:22).

oligo 8: aac atc acc ggt ctg ctg acc cgc gac
ggc ggc aag gac acc gac acc aac gac acc gaa atc ttc cgc
10 ccc ggc ggc gac atg cgc gac aac tgg aga tct gag ctg
tac aag tac aag gtg gtg acg atc gag ccc ctg ggc gtg gcc
ccc acc aag gcc aag cgc cgc gtg gtg cag cgc gag aag cgc
(SEQ ID NO:23).

oligo 8 reverse (Not1): cgc ggg cgg ccg ctt tag
15 cgc ttc tcg cgc tgc acc ac (SEQ ID NO:24).

The following oligonucleotides were used for the
construction of the ratTHY-1env gene.

oligo 1 forward (BamH1/Hind3): cgc ggg gga tcc
aag ctt acc atg att cca gta ata agt (SEQ ID NO:25).

20 oligo 1: atg aat cca gta ata agt ata aca tta tta
tta agt gta tta caa atg agt aga gga caa aga gta ata agt
tta aca gca tct tta gta aat caa aat ttg aga tta gat tgt
aga cat gaa aat aat aca aat ttg cca ata caa cat gaa ttt
tca tta acg (SEQ ID NO:26).

25 oligo 1 reverse (EcoR1/Mlu1): cgc ggg gaa ttc acg
cgt taa tga aaa ttc atg ttg (SEQ ID NO:27).

oligo 2 forward (BamH1/Mlu1): cgc gga tcc acg cgt
gaa aaa aaa aaa cat (SEQ ID NO:28).

30 oligo 2: cgt gaa aaa aaa aaa cat gta tta agt gga
aca tta gga gta cca gaa cat aca tat aga agt aga gta aat
ttg ttt agt gat aga ttc ata aaa gta tta aca tta gca aat
ttt aca aca aaa gat gaa gga gat tat atg tgt gag (SEQ ID
NO:29).

oligo 2 reverse (EcoR1/Sac1): cgc gaa ttc gag ctc
35 aca cat ata atc tcc (SEQ ID NO:30).

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oligo 3 forward (BamH1/Sac1): cgc gga tcc gag ctc
aga gta agt gga caa (SEQ ID NO:31).

oligo 3: ctc aga gta agt gga caa aat cca aca agt
agt aat aaa aca ata aat gta ata aga gat aaa tta gta aaa
5 tgt ga gga ata agt tta tta gta caa aat aca agt tgg tta
tta tta tta tta agt tta agt ttt tta caa gca aca gat
ttt ata agt tta tga (SEQ ID NO:32).

oligo 3 reverse (EcoR1/Not1): cgc gaa ttc gcg gcc
gct tca taa act tat aaa atc (SEQ ID NO:33).

10 Polymerase Chain Reaction

Short, overlapping 15 to 25 mer oligonucleotides annealing at both ends were used to amplify the long oligonucleotides by polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Typical PCR conditions were: 35 cycles, 55°C annealing 15 temperature, 0.2 sec extension time. PCR products were gel purified, phenol extracted, and used in a subsequent PCR to generate longer fragments consisting of two adjacent small fragments. These longer fragments were cloned into a CDM7-derived plasmid containing a leader 20 sequence of the CD5 surface molecule followed by a Nhe1/Pst1/Mlu1/EcoR1/BamH1 polylinker.

The following solutions were used in these reactions: 10x PCR buffer (500 mM KCl, 100 mM Tris HCl, pH 7.5, 8 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM each dNTP). The final buffer 25 was complemented with 10% DMSO to increase fidelity of the Taq polymerase.

Small scale DNA preparation

Transformed bacteria were grown in 3 ml LB cultures for more than 6 hours or overnight.

30 Approximately 1.5 ml of each culture was poured into 1.5 ml microfuge tubes, spun for 20 seconds to pellet cells and resuspended in 200 μ l of solution I. Subsequently 400 μ l of solution II and 300 μ l of solution III were added. The microfuge tubes were capped, mixed and spun 35 for > 30 sec. Supernatants were transferred into fresh

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tubes and phenol extracted once. DNA was precipitated by filling the tubes with isopropanol, mixing, and spinning in a microfuge for > 2 min. The pellets were rinsed in 70 % ethanol and resuspended in 50 μ l dH₂O containing 10 5 μ l of RNase A. The following media and solutions were used in these procedures: LB medium (1.0 % NaCl, 0.5% yeast extract, 1.0% tryptone); solution I (10 mM EDTA pH 8.0); solution II (0.2 M NaOH, 1.0% SDS); solution III 10 (2.5 M KOAc, 2.5 M glacial acetic acid); phenol (pH adjusted to 6.0, overlaid with TE); TE (10 mM Tris HCl, pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA pH 8.0).

Large scale DNA preparation

One liter cultures of transformed bacteria were grown 24 to 36 hours (MC1061p3 transformed with pCDM 15 derivatives) or 12 to 16 hours (MC1061 transformed with pUC derivatives) at 37°C in either M9 bacterial medium (pCDM derivatives) or LB (pUC derivatives). Bacteria were spun down in 1 liter bottles using a Beckman J6 centrifuge at 4,200 rpm for 20 min. The pellet was 20 resuspended in 40 ml of solution I. Subsequently, 80 ml of solution II and 40 ml of solution III were added and the bottles were shaken semivigorously until lumps of 2 to 3 mm size developed. The bottle was spun at 4,200 rpm for 5 min and the supernatant was poured through 25 cheesecloth into a 250 ml bottle. Isopropanol was added to the top and the bottle was spun at 4,200 rpm for 10 min. The pellet was resuspended in 4.1 ml of solution I and added to 4.5 g of cesium chloride, 0.3 ml of 10 mg/ml ethidium bromide, and 0.1 ml of 1% Triton X100 solution. 30 The tubes were spun in a Beckman J2 high speed centrifuge at 10,000 rpm for 5 min. The supernatant was transferred into Beckman Quick Seal ultracentrifuge tubes, which were then sealed and spun in a Beckman ultracentrifuge using a NVT90 fixed angle rotor at 80,000 rpm for > 2.5 hours. 35 The band was extracted by visible light using a 1 ml

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syringe and 20 gauge needle. An equal volume of dH₂O was added to the extracted material. DNA was extracted once with n-butanol saturated with 1 M sodium chloride, followed by addition of an equal volume of 10 M ammonium 5 acetate/ 1 mM EDTA. The material was poured into a 13 ml snap tube which was then filled to the top with absolute ethanol, mixed, and spun in a Beckman J2 centrifuge at 10,000 rpm for 10 min. The pellet was rinsed with 70% ethanol and resuspended in 0.5 to 1 ml of H₂O. The DNA 10 concentration was determined by measuring the optical density at 260 nm in a dilution of 1:200 (1 OD₂₆₀ = 50 µg/ml).

The following media and buffers were used in these procedures: M9 bacterial medium (10 g M9 salts, 10 g 15 casamino acids (hydrolyzed), 10 ml M9 additions, 7.5 µg/ml tetracycline (500 µl of a 15 mg/ml stock solution), 12.5 µg/ml ampicillin (125 µl of a 10 mg/ml stock solution); M9 additions (10 mM CaCl₂, 100 mM MgSO₄, 200 µg/ml thiamine, 70% glycerol); LB medium (1.0 % NaCl, 0.5 20 % yeast extract, 1.0 % tryptone); Solution I (10 mM EDTA pH 8.0); Solution II (0.2 M NaOH 1.0 % SDS); Solution III (2.5 M KOAc 2.5 M HOAc)

Sequencing

Synthetic genes were sequenced by the Sanger 25 dideoxynucleotide method. In brief, 20 to 50 µg double-stranded plasmid DNA were denatured in 0.5 M NaOH for 5 min. Subsequently the DNA was precipitated with 1/10 volume of sodium acetate (pH 5.2) and 2 volumes of ethanol and centrifuged for 5 min. The pellet was washed 30 with 70% ethanol and resuspended at a concentration of 1 µg/µl. The annealing reaction was carried out with 4 µg of template DNA and 40 ng of primer in 1x annealing buffer in a final volume of 10 µl. The reaction was heated to 65°C and slowly cooled to 37°C. In a separate 35 tube 1 µl of 0.1 M DTT, 2 µl of labeling mix, 0.75 µl of

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dH_2O , 1 μ l of [^{35}S] dATP (10 uCi), and 0.25 μ l of Sequenase[®] (12 U/ μ l) were added for each reaction. Five μ l of this mix were added to each annealed primer-template tube and incubated for 5 min at room 5 temperature. For each labeling reaction 2.5 μ l of each of the 4 termination mixes were added on a Terasaki plate and prewarmed at 37°C. At the end of the incubation period 3.5 μ l of labeling reaction were added to each of the 4 termination mixes. After 5 min, 4 μ l of stop 10 solution were added to each reaction and the Terasaki plate was incubated at 80°C for 10 min in an oven. The sequencing reactions were run on 5% denaturing polyacrylamide gel. An acrylamide solution was prepared by adding 200 ml of 10x TBE buffer and 957 ml of dH_2O to 15 100 g of acrylamide:bisacrylamide (29:1). 5% polyacrylamide 46% urea and 1x TBE gel was prepared by combining 38 ml of acrylamide solution and 28 g urea. Polymerization was initiated by the addition of 400 μ l of 10% ammonium peroxodisulfate and 60 μ l of TEMED. Gels 20 were poured using silanized glass plates and sharktooth combs and run in 1x TBE buffer at 60 to 100 W for 2 to 4 hours (depending on the region to be read). Gels were transferred to Whatman blotting paper, dried at 80°C for about 1 hour, and exposed to x-ray film at room 25 temperature. Typically exposure time was 12 hours. The following solutions were used in these procedures: 5x Annealing buffer (200 mM Tris HCl, pH 7.5, 100 mM MgCl₂, 250 mM NaCl); Labelling Mix (7.5 μ M each dCTP, dGTP, and dTTP); Termination Mixes (80 μ M each dNTP, 50 mM NaCl, 8 30 μ M ddNTP (one each)); Stop solution (95% formamide, 20 mM EDTA, 0.05 % bromphenol blue, 0.05 % xylencyanol); 5x TBE (0.9 M Tris borate, 20 mM EDTA); Polyacrylamide solution (96.7 g polyacrylamide, 3.3 g bisacrylamide, 200 ml 1x TBE, 957 ml dH_2O).

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RNA isolation

Cytoplasmic RNA was isolated from calcium phosphate transfected 293T cells 36 hours post transfection and from vaccinia infected HeLa cells 16 5 hours post infection essentially as described by Gilman. (Gilman Preparation of cytoplasmic RNA from tissue culture cells. In Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Ausubel et al., eds., Wiley & Sons, New York, 1992). Briefly, cells were lysed in 400 μ l lysis buffer, 10 nuclei were spun out, and SDS and proteinase K were added to 0.2% and 0.2 mg/ml respectively. The cytoplasmic extracts were incubated at 37°C for 20 min, phenol/chloroform extracted twice, and precipitated. The RNA was dissolved in 100 μ l buffer I and incubated at 15 37°C for 20 min. The reaction was stopped by adding 25 μ l stop buffer and precipitated again.

The following solutions were used in this procedure: Lysis Buffer (TRUSTEE containing with 50 mM Tris pH 8.0, 100 mM NaCl, 5 mM MgCl₂, 0.5% NP40); Buffer 20 I (TRUSTEE buffer with 10 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM DTT, 0.5 U/ μ l placental RNase inhibitor, 0.1 U/ μ l RNase free DNase I); Stop buffer (50 mM EDTA 1.5 M NaOAc 1.0 % SDS).

Slot blot analysis

For slot blot analysis 10 μ g of cytoplasmic RNA 25 was dissolved in 50 μ l dH₂O to which 150 μ l of 10X SSC/18% formaldehyde were added. The solubilized RNA was then incubated at 65°C for 15 min and spotted onto with a slot blot apparatus. Radioactively labeled probes of 1.5 kb gp120IIIb and syngp120mn fragments were used for 30 hybridization. Each of the two fragments was random labeled in a 50 μ l reaction with 10 μ l of 5x oligo-labeling buffer, 8 μ l of 2.5 mg/ml BSA, 4 μ l of α [³²P]-dCTP (20 uCi/ μ l; 6000 Ci/mmol), and 5 U of Klenow fragment. After 1 to 3 hours incubation at 37°C 100 μ l 35 of TRUSTEE were added and unincorporated α [³²P]-dCTP was

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eliminated using G50 spin column. Activity was measured in a Beckman beta-counter, and equal specific activities were used for hybridization. Membranes were pre-hybridized for 2 hours and hybridized for 12 to 24 hours 5 at 42°C with 0.5×10^6 cpm probe per ml hybridization fluid. The membrane was washed twice (5 min) with washing buffer I at room temperature, for one hour in washing buffer II at 65°C, and then exposed to x-ray film. Similar results were obtained using a 1.1 kb 10 Not1/SfiI fragment of pCDM7 containing the 3 untranslated region. Control hybridizations were done in parallel with a random-labeled human beta-actin probe. RNA expression was quantitated by scanning the hybridized nitrocellulose membranes with a Magnetic Dynamics 15 phosphorimager.

The following solutions were used in this procedure:

5x Oligo-labeling buffer (250 mM Tris HCl, pH 8.0, 25 mM MgCl₂, 5 mM β -mercaptoethanol, 2 mM dATP, 2 mM dGTP, mM 20 dTTP, 1 M Hepes pH 6.6, 1 mg/ml hexanucleotides [dNTP]6); Hybridization Solution (M sodium phosphate, 250 mM NaCl, 7% SDS, 1 mM EDTA, 5% dextrane sulfate, 50% formamide, 100 μ g/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA); Washing buffer I (2x SSC, 25 0.1% SDS); Washing buffer II (0.5x SSC, 0.1 % SDS); 20x SSC (3 M NaCl, 0.3 M Na₃citrate, pH adjusted to 7.0).

Vaccinia recombination

Vaccinia recombination used a modification of the of the method described by Romeo and Seed (Romeo and 30 Seed, Cell, 64: 1037, 1991). Briefly, CV1 cells at 70 to 90% confluence were infected with 1 to 3 μ l of a wild-type vaccinia stock WR (2×10^8 pfu/ml) for 1 hour in culture medium without calf serum. After 24 hours, the cells were transfected by calcium phosphate with 25 μ g 35 TKG plasmid DNA per dish. After an additional 24 to 48

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hours the cells were scraped off the plate, spun down, and resuspended in a volume of 1 ml. After 3 freeze/thaw cycles trypsin was added to 0.05 mg/ml and lysates were incubated for 20 min. A dilution series of 5 10, 1 and 0.1 μ l of this lysate was used to infect small dishes (6 cm) of CV1 cells, that had been pretreated with 12.5 μ g/ml mycophenolic acid, 0.25 mg/ml xanthin and 1.36 mg/ml hypoxanthine for 6 hours. Infected cells were cultured for 2 to 3 days, and subsequently stained with 10 the monoclonal antibody NEA9301 against gp120 and an alkaline phosphatase conjugated secondary antibody. Cells were incubated with 0.33 mg/ml NBT and 0.16 mg/ml BCIP in AP-buffer and finally overlaid with 1% agarose in PBS. Positive plaques were picked and resuspended in 15 100 μ l Tris pH 9.0. The plaque purification was repeated once. To produce high titer stocks the infection was slowly scaled up. Finally, one large plate of Hela cells was infected with half of the virus of the previous round. Infected cells were detached in 3 ml of PBS, 20 lysed with a Dounce homogenizer and cleared from larger debris by centrifugation. VPE-8 recombinant vaccinia stocks were kindly provided by the AIDS repository, Rockville, MD, and express HIV-1 IIIB gp120 under the 7.5 mixed early/late promoter (Earl et al., *J. Virol.*, 65:31, 25 1991). In all experiments with recombinant vaccina cells were infected at a multiplicity of infection of at least 10.

The following solution was used in this procedure:
AP buffer (100 mM Tris HCl, pH 9.5, 100 mM NaCl, 5 mM 30 $MgCl_2$)

Cell culture

The monkey kidney carcinoma cell lines CV1 and Cos7, the human kidney carcinoma cell line 293T, and the human cervix carcinoma cell line Hela were obtained from 35 the American Tissue Typing Collection and were maintained

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in supplemented IMDM. They were kept on 10 cm tissue culture plates and typically split 1:5 to 1:20 every 3 to 4 days. The following medium was used in this procedure:

5 Supplemented IMDM (90% Iscove's modified Dulbecco Medium, 10% calf serum, iron-complemented, heat inactivated 30 min 56°C, 0.3 mg/ml L-glutamine, 25 µg/ml gentamycin 0.5 mM β -mercaptoethanol (pH adjusted with 5 M NaOH, 0.5 ml)).

10 Transfection

Calcium phosphate transfection of 293T cells was performed by slowly adding and under vortexing 10 µg plasmid DNA in 250 µl 0.25 M CaCl₂ to the same volume of 2x HEBS buffer while vortexing. After incubation for 10 to 30 min at room temperature the DNA precipitate was added to a small dish of 50 to 70% confluent cells. In cotransfection experiments with rev, cells were transfected with 10 µg gp120IIIB, gp120IIIBrre, syngp120mnrrre or rTHY-1envveg1rre and 10 µg of pCMVrev or

20 CDM7 plasmid DNA.

The following solutions were used in this procedure: 2x HEBS buffer (280 mM NaCl, 10 mM KCl, 1.5 mM sterile filtered); 0.25 mM CaCl₂ (autoclaved).

Immunoprecipitation

25 After 48 to 60 hours medium was exchanged and cells were incubated for additional 12 hours in Cys/Met-free medium containing 200 µCi of ³⁵S-translabel. Supernatants were harvested and spun for 15 min at 3000 rpm to remove debris. After addition of protease

30 inhibitors leupeptin, aprotinin and PMSF to 2.5 µg/ml, 50 µg/ml, 100 µg/ml respectively, 1 ml of supernatant was incubated with either 10 µl of packed protein A sepharose alone (rTHY-1envveg1rre) or with protein A sepharose and 3 µg of a purified CD4/immunoglobulin fusion protein

35 (kindly provided by Behring) (all gp120 constructs) at

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4°C for 12 hours on a rotator. Subsequently the protein A beads were washed 5 times for 5 to 15 min each time. After the final wash 10 μ l of loading buffer containing was added, samples were boiled for 3 min and applied on 5 7% (all gp120 constructs) or 10% (rTHY-1envveg1rre) SDS polyacrylamide gels (TRIS pH 8.8 buffer in the resolving, TRIS pH 6.8 buffer in the stacking gel, TRIS-glycin running buffer, Maniatis et al. 1989). Gels were fixed in 10% acetic acid and 10 % methanol, incubated with 10 Amplify for 20 min, dried and exposed for 12 hours.

The following buffers and solutions were used in this procedure: Wash buffer (100 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM CaCl₂, 1% NP-40); 5x Running Buffer (125 mM Tris, 1.25 M Glycin, 0.5% SDS); Loading buffer (10 % 15 glycerol, 4% SDS, 4% β -mercaptoethanol, 0.02 % bromphenol blue).

Immunofluorescence

293T cells were transfected by calcium phosphate coprecipitation and analyzed for surface THY-1 expression 20 after 3 days. After detachment with 1 mM EDTA/PBS, cells were stained with the monoclonal antibody OX-7 in a dilution of 1:250 at 4°C for 20 min, washed with PBS and subsequently incubated with a 1:500 dilution of a FITC-conjugated goat anti-mouse immunoglobulin antiserum. 25 Cells were washed again, resuspended in 0.5 ml of a fixing solution, and analyzed on a EPICS XL cytofluorometer (Coulter).

The following solutions were used in this procedure:

30 PBS (137 mM NaCl, 2.7 mM KCl, 4.3 mM Na₂HPO₄, 1.4 mM KH₂PO₄, pH adjusted to 7.4); Fixing solution (2% formaldehyde in PBS).

ELISA

The concentration of gp120 in culture supernatants 35 was determined using CD4-coated ELISA plates and goat

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anti-gp120 antisera in the soluble phase. Supernatants of 293T cells transfected by calcium phosphate were harvested after 4 days, spun at 3000 rpm for 10 min to remove debris and incubated for 12 hours at 4°C on the 5 plates. After 6 washes with PBS 100 µl of goat anti-gp120 antisera diluted 1:200 were added for 2 hours. The plates were washed again and incubated for 2 hours with a peroxidase-conjugated rabbit anti-goat IgG antiserum 1:1000. Subsequently the plates were washed and 10 incubated for 30 min with 100 µl of substrate solution containing 2 mg/ml o-phenylenediamine in sodium citrate buffer. The reaction was finally stopped with 100 µl of 4 M sulfuric acid. Plates were read at 490 nm with a Coulter microplate reader. Purified recombinant 15 gp120IIIb was used as a control. The following buffers and solutions were used in this procedure: Wash buffer (0.1% NP40 in PBS); Substrate solution (2 mg/ml o-phenylenediamine in sodium citrate buffer).

Green Fluorescent Protein
20 The efficacy of codon replacement for gp120 suggests that replacing non-preferred codons with less preferred codons or preferred codons (and replacing less preferred codons with preferred codons) will increase expression in mammalian cells of other proteins, e.g., 25 other eukaryotic proteins.

The green fluorescent protein (GFP) of the jellyfish *Aequorea victoria* (Ward, Photochem. Photobiol. 4:1, 1979; Prasher et al., Gene 111:229, 1992; Cody et al., Biochem. 32:1212, 1993) has attracted attention 30 recently for its possible utility as a marker or reporter for transfection and lineage studies (Chalfie et al., Science 263:802, 1994).

Examination of a codon usage table constructed from the native coding sequence of GFP showed that the 35 GFP codons favored either A or U in the third position.

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The bias in this case favors A less than does the bias of gp120, but is substantial. A synthetic gene was created in which the natural GFP sequence was re-engineered in much the same manner as for gp120. In addition, the 5 translation initiation sequence of GFP was replaced with sequences corresponding to the translational initiation consensus. The expression of the resulting protein was contrasted with that of the wild type sequence, similarly engineered to bear an optimized translational initiation 10 consensus (FIG. 10, panel B and FIG. 10, panel C). In addition, the effect of inclusion of the mutation Ser 65→Thr, reported to improve excitation efficiency of GFP at 490 nm and hence preferred for fluorescence microscopy (Heim et al., Nature 373:663,1995), was examined (FIG. 15 10, panel D). Codon engineering conferred a significant increase in expression efficiency (an concomitant percentage of cells apparently positive for transfection), and the combination of the Ser 65→Thr mutation and codon optimization resulted in a DNA segment 20 encoding a highly visible mammalian marker protein (FIG. 10, panel D).

The above-described synthetic green fluorescent protein coding sequence was assembled in a similar manner as for gp120 from six fragments of approximately 120 bp 25 each, using a strategy for assembly that relied on the ability of the restriction enzymes BsaI and BbsI to cleave outside of their recognition sequence. Long oligonucleotides were synthesized which contained portions of the coding sequence for GFP embedded in 30 flanking sequences encoding EcoRI and BsaI at one end, and BamHI and BbsI at the other end. Thus, each oligonucleotide has the configuration EcoRI/BsaI/GFP fragment/BbsI/BamHI. The restriction site ends generated by the BsaI and BbsI sites were designed to yield 35 compatible ends that could be used to join adjacent GFP

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fragments. Each of the compatible ends were designed to be unique and non-selfcomplementary. The crude synthetic DNA segments were amplified by PCR, inserted between EcoRI and BamHI in pUC9, and sequenced. Subsequently the 5 intact coding sequence was assembled in a six fragment ligation, using insert fragments prepared with BsaI and BbsI. Two of six plasmids resulting from the ligation bore an insert of correct size, and one contained the desired full length sequence. Mutation of Ser65 to Thr 10 was accomplished by standard PCR based mutagenesis, using a primer that overlapped a unique BssSI site in the synthetic GFP.

Codon optimization as a strategy for improved expression in mammalian cells

15 The data presented here suggest that coding sequence re-engineering may have general utility for the improvement of expression of mammalian and non-mammalian eukaryotic genes in mammalian cells. The results obtained here with three unrelated proteins: HIV gp120, 20 the rat cell surface antigen Thy-1 and green fluorescent protein from *Aequorea victoria*, suggest that codon optimization may prove to be a fruitful strategy for improving the expression in mammalian cells of a wide variety of eukaryotic genes.

25 Use

The synthetic genes of the invention are useful for expressing the a protein normally expressed in mammalian cells in cell culture (e.g. for commercial production of human proteins such as hGH, TPA, Factor 30 VII, and Factor IX). The synthetic genes of the invention are also useful for gene therapy.

Synthetic GFP genes can be used in any application in which a native GFP gene or other reporter gene can be used. A synthetic GFP gene which employs more preferred

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codons than the native GFP gene can be the basis of a highly sensitive reporter system. Such a system can be used, e.g., to analyze the influence of particular promoter elements or trans-acting factors on gene 5 expression. Thus, the synthetic GFP gene can be used in much the same fashion as other reporters, e.g., β -galactosidase, has been used.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

- (i) APPLICANT: THE GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION
- (ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: HIGH LEVEL EXPRESSION OF PROTEINS
- (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 40
- (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
 - (A) ADDRESSEE: Fish & Richardson P.C.
 - (B) STREET: 225 Franklin Street
 - (C) CITY: Boston
 - (D) STATE: Massachusetts
 - (E) COUNTRY: U.S.A.
 - (F) ZIP: 02110-2804
- (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
 - (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
 - (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
 - (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
 - (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.30B
- (vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: PCT/US96/-----
 - (B) FILING DATE: -SEP-1996
- (vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: 08/532,390
 - (B) FILING DATE: 22-SEP-1995
- (viii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: 08/324,243
 - (B) FILING DATE: 19-SEP-1994
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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 24 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

CCCGGGCTAG CCACCGAGAA GCTG

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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 196 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

ACCGAGAAGC TGTGGGTGAC CGTGTACTAC GGCGTCCCCG TGTGGAAGAG AGGCCAC	60
CACCCCTGTT CGCGCCAGCG ACCCCAAGGC GTACGACACC GAGGTGCACA ACGTGTGGC	120
CACCCAGGCG TGGGTGCCCCA CCGACCCCAA CCCCCAGGAG GTGGAGCTCG TGAACGTGAC	180
CGAGAACATTC AACATG	196

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 34 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

CCACCATGTT GTTCTTCCAC ATGTTGAAGT TCTC	34
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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 33 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

GACCGAGAAC TTCAACATGT GGAAGAACAA CAT	33
--------------------------------------	----

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 192 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

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(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

TGGAAGAACCA	ACATGGTGGGA	GCAGATGCAT	GAGGACATCA	TCAGCCTGTG	GGACCAGAGC	60
CTGAAGCCCT	CCGTGAAGCT	GACCCCTGT	CCGTGACCTG	AACTGCACCG	ACCTGAGGAA	120
CACCAACCAAC	ACCAACACAG	CACCGCCAAC	ACCAACAGCA	ACAGCGAGGG	CACCATCAAG	180
GGCGGCGAGA	TG					192

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 33 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

GTGAAAGCTG	CAGTTCTTCA	TCTCGCCGCC	CTT	33
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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:7:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 31 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:7:

GAAGAACTGC	AGCTTCAACA	TCACCAACAG	C	31
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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:8:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 195 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:8:

AACATCACCA	CCAGCATCCG	CGACAAGATG	CAGAAGGAGT	ACGCCCTGCT	GTACAAGCTG	60
GATATCGTGA	GCATCGACAA	CGACAGCACC	AGCTACCGCC	TGATCTCCTG	CAACACCAGC	120
GTGATCACCC	AGGCCTGCC	CAAGATCAGC	TTCGAGCCCA	TCCCCATCCA	CTACTGCGCC	180
CCCCCGGGCT	TCGCC					195

- 49 -

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:9:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:9:

GAACTTCTTG TCGGCGGCCGA ACCCGGGCGGG

30

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:10:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 47 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:10:

GCGCCCCCGC CGGCTTCGCC ATCCTGAAGT GCAACGACAA GAAGTTC

47

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:11:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 198 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:11:

GCGGACAAGA AGTTCAAGCGG CAAGGGCAGC TGCAAGAACG TGAGGCACCGT GCAGTGCACC 60
CACGGCATCC GGCGGGTGGT GACCAACCCAG CTCCTGCTGA ACGGCAGCCT GGCCGAGGAG 120
GAGGTGGTGA TCCGCAGCGA GAACTTCAAC GACAACGCCA AGACCCATCAT CGTGCACCTG 180
AATGAGAGCC TGCAGATC 198

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:12:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 34 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

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(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:12:

ACTTGGGACG CGTGCAGTTC ATCTGCACGC TCTC

34

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:13:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:13:

GAGAGCGTGC AGATCAACTG CACCGCGTCCC

30

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:14:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 120 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:14:

AACTGCACCC GTCCCAACTA CAACAAGCGC AAGCGCATCC ACATCGGCCC CGGGCGCGCC

60

TTCTACACCA CCAAGAACAT CATCGGCACC ATCCTCCAGG CCCACTGCAA CATCTCTAGA

120

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:15:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:15:

GTCGTTCCAC TTGGCTCTAG AGATGTTGCA

30

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:16:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 29 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

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(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:16:

GCAACATCTC TAGAGCCAAG TCGAACGAC

29

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:17:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 131 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:17:

GCCAAGTGG ACGACACCCCT GCGCCAGATC GTGAGCAAGC TGAAGGAGCA GTTCAAGAAC 60
AAGACCATCG TGTCACCAAG AGCACCGGCG GCGACCCCGA GATCGTGATG CACAGCTTCA 120
ACTGCGGCGG C 131

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:18:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 29 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:18:

GCAGTACAGG AATTCCCGCG CGCAGTTGA

29

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:19:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 29 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:19:

TCAACTGCGG CGGCGAATTC TTCTACTGC

29

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:20:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 195 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single

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(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:20:

GGCGAATTCT TCTACTGCAA CACCAGCCCC CTGTTCAACA GCACCTGGAA CGGCAACAAAC	60
ACCTGGAACA ACACCCACCGG CAGCAACAAC AATATTACCC TCCAGTGCAG GATCAAGCAG	120
ATCATCAACA TGTGGCAGGA CGTGGGCAAG GCCATGTACG CCCCCCCCCAT CGAGGGCCAG	180
ATCCGGTGCA GCAGC	195

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:21:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 40 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:21:

GCAGACCGGT GATGTTGCTG CTGCACCGGA TCTGGCCCTC	40
---	----

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:22:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 40 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:22:

CGAGGGCCAG ATCCGGTGCA GCAGCAACAT CACCGGTCTG	40
---	----

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:23:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 242 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

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(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:23:

AACATCACCG GTCTGCTGCT GCTGCTGACC CGGACGGCGG CAAGGACACC GACACCAACG	60
ACACCGAAAT CTTCCCGCGAC GGCGGCAARGG ACACCAAACGA CACCGAAATC TTCCGCCCCG	120
GGGGCGGCGA CATGCCGAC AACTGGAGAT CTGAGCTGTA CAAGTACAAG GTGGTACCGA	180
TCGAGCCCCCT GGGCGTGGCC CCCACCAAGG CCAAGCGCGC GGTGGTGCAG CGCGAGAACG	240
GC	242

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:24:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 38 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:24:

CGCGGGCGGC CGCTTTAGCG CTTCTCGCGC TGCACCCAC	38
--	----

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:25:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 39 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:25:

CGCGGGGGAT CCAAGCTTAC CATGATTCCA GTAATAAGT	39
--	----

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:26:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 165 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:26:

ATGAATCCAG TAATAAGTAT AACATTATTA TTAAGTGTAT TACAAATGAG TAGAGGACAA	60
AGAGTAATAA GTTTAACAGC ATCTTTAGTA AATCAAATT TGAGATTAGA TTGTAGACAT	120
GAAAATAATA CAAATTGCC AATACAACAT GAATTTCAT TAACG	165

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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:27:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 36 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:27:

CGCGGGGAAT TCACGGCTTA ATGAAAATTC ATGTTG

36

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:28:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:28:

CGCGGATCCA CGCGTGAAAA AAAAAAAACAT

30

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:29:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 149 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:29:

CGTGAAAAAA AAAAACATGT ATTAAGTGGA ACATAGGAG TACCAAGAACCA TACATATAGA

60

ACTAGACTAA TTTGTTTAGT GATAGATTCA TAAAAGTATT AACATTAGCA AATTTACAA

120

CAAAAGATGA AGGAGATTAT ATGTGTGAG

149

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:30:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

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(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:30:

CCCGAATTCTG AGCTCACACA TATAATCTCC

30

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:31:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:31:

CCCGGATCCG AGCTCAGAGT AAGTGGACAA

30

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:32:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 170 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:32:

CTCAGAGTAA GTGGACAAAA TCCAAACAAGT AGTAATAAAA CTTAAATGT AATAAGAGAT	60
AAATTAGTAA AATGTGAGGA ATAAGTTTAT TAGTACAAAA TACAAGTTGG TTATTATTAT	120
TATTATTAAG TTTAAGTTT TTACAAAGCAA CAGATTTAT AACTTATGA	170

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:33:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 36 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:33:

CGCGAATTCTG CGGCCGCTTC ATAAACTTAT AAAATC

36

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:34:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 1632 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single

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(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:34:

CTCGAGATCC	ATTCGTCTCT	AAAGGAGATA	CCCGGCCAGA	CACCCCTCACC	TGCGGTGCC	60
AGCTGCCAG	GCTGAGGCAA	GAGAAGGCCA	GAAACCATGC	CCATGGGTC	TCTGCAACCG	120
CTGGCCACCT	TGTACCTGCT	GGGGATGCTG	GTGGCTTCCG	TGCTAGCCAC	CGAGAAGCTG	180
TGGGTGACCG	TGTACTACGG	CGTGCCTCG	TGGAAGGAGG	CCACCAACAC	CCTGTTCTGC	240
GCCAGCGACG	CCAAGGGCTA	CGACACCGAG	GTGCCACAACG	TGTGGCCAC	CCAGGCGTGC	300
GTGCCCACCG	ACCCCCAACCC	CCAGGAGGTG	GAGCTCGTGA	ACGTGACCGA	GAACTTCAAC	360
ATGTGGAAGA	ACAACATGGT	GGAGCAGATG	CATGAGGACA	TCATCAGCCT	GTGGGACCAAG	420
ACCCCTGAAGC	CCTGCGTGA	GCTGACCCCC	CTGTGCGTGA	CCCTGAACTG	CACCGACCTG	480
AGGAACACCA	CCAACACCAA	CAACAGCACC	GCCAACAACA	ACAGCAACAG	CGAGGGCACC	540
ATCAAGGGCG	GCGAGATGAA	CAACTGCAGC	TTCAACATCA	CCACCAAGCAT	CCGGGACAAAG	600
ATGCAGAAGG	AGTACGCCCT	GCTGTACAAG	CTGGATATCG	TGAGCATCGA	CAACGACACG	660
ACCAAGCTACC	GCCTGATCTC	CTGCAACACC	AGCGTGATCA	CCCAGGCC	GCCCAAGATC	720
ACCTTCGAGC	CCATCCCCAT	CCACTACTGC	GCCCCCGCCG	GCTTCGCCAT	CCTGAAGTGC	780
AACGACAAGA	AGTTCAGCGG	CAAGGGCAGC	TGCAAGAACG	TGAGCACCGT	GCAGTGCACC	840
CACGGCATCC	GGCCGGTGGT	GAGCACCCAG	CTCCTGCTGA	ACGGCAGCCT	GGCCGAGGAG	900
GAGGTGGTGA	TCCGCAGCGA	GAACTTCAAC	GACAACGCCA	AGACCATCAT	CGTGCACCTG	960
AATGAGACCG	TGCAGATCAA	CTGCACGCGT	CCCAACTACA	ACAGCGCAA	GGCGATCCAC	1020
ATCGGCCCCG	GGCGCGCC	CTACACCACC	AAGAACATCA	TCGGCACCAT	CCGCCAGGCC	1080
CACTGCAACA	TCTCTAGAGC	CAAGTGGAAC	GACACCTGC	GCCAGATCGT	GAGCAAGCTG	1140
AAGGAGCAGT	TCAAGAACAA	GACCATCGT	TTCAACCAGA	GCAGGGGGG	CGACCCCGAG	1200
ATCGTGTG	ACAGCTTCAA	CTGGGGCGGC	GAATTCTCT	ACTGCCAACAC	CAGCCCCCTG	1260
TTCAACAGCA	CCTGGAACGG	CAACACACC	TGGAACAACA	CCACCGGAG	CAACAACAAT	1320
ATTACCCCTCC	AGTGAAGAT	CAAGCAGATC	ATCAACATGT	GGCAGGAGGT	GGGCAAGGCC	1380
ATGTACGCC	CCCCCATCGA	GGGCCAGATC	CGGTGCAGCA	GCAACATCAC	CGGTCTGCTG	1440
CTGACCCGCG	ACGGCGGCCA	GGACACCGAC	ACCAACGACA	CCGAAATCTT	CCGCCCCGGC	1500
GGCGGCGACA	TGGCGACAA	CTGGAGATCT	GAGCTGTACA	AGTACAAGGT	GGTGCACGATC	1560
GAGCCCCCTGG	GGTGGCCCC	CACCAAGGCC	AACCGCCGGG	TGGTGCAGCG	CGAGAAGCGC	1620
TAAAGCGGCC	GC					1632

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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:35:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 2481 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:35:

ACCGAGAAGC	TGTGGGTGAC	CGTGTACTAC	GGCGTCCCCG	TGTGGAAGGA	GGCCACCACC	60
ACCCCTGTTCT	GCGCCAGCGA	CGCCAAGGCG	TACGACACCCG	AGGTGACCAA	CGTGTGGGCC	120
ACCCAGGCGT	GCGTGCCCAC	CGACCCCCAAC	CCCCAGGAGG	TGGAGCTGTT	GAACGTGACC	180
GAGAACTTCA	ACATGTGGAA	GAACAACATG	CTGGAGCAGA	TGGATGAGGA	CATCATCAGC	240
CTGTGGGACC	AGAGCCTGAA	GCCCTGCGTG	AAGCTGACCC	CCCTGTGCGT	GACCCCTGAAC	300
TGCACCGACC	TGAGGAACAC	CACCAACACC	AAACAACAGCA	CGGCAACAA	CAACAGCAAC	360
ACCGACGGCA	CCATCAAGGG	CGGGCAGATG	AAGAACTGCA	GCTTCAACAT	CACCAACCAGC	420
ATCCCGCGACA	AGATGCAGAA	GGAGTACGCC	CTGCTGTACA	AGCTGGATAT	CGTGAGGCATC	480
CACAAACGACA	GCACCAAGCTA	CGGCCTGATC	TCCTGCAACA	CCAGCGTGAT	CACCCAGGCC	540
TGCCCCAAGA	TCAGCTTCGA	GCCCCATCCCC	ATCCACTACT	CGGCCCCCGC	CGGCTTCGCC	600
ATCCTGAAGT	GCAACGACAA	GAAGTTCAAGC	GGCAAGGGCA	GCTGCAAGAA	CGTGACCAACC	660
GTGCAGTGCA	CCCACGGCAT	CGGGCCGGTG	GTGAGCACCC	AGCTCCTGCT	GAACGGCAGC	720
CTGGCCGAGG	AGGAGGTGGT	GATCCGCAGC	GAGAACTTCA	CCGACAACGC	CAAGACCATC	780
ATCGTGCACC	TGAATGAGAG	CGTGCAGATC	AACTGCACGC	GTCCCAACTA	CAACAAAGCC	840
AAAGCGCATCC	ACATCGGCCC	CGGGCCGGCC	TTCTACACCA	CCAAGAACAT	CATCGGCACC	900
ATCCGCCAGG	CCCACGTCAA	CATCTCTAGA	GCCAAGTGGA	ACGACACCCCT	GCGCCAGATC	960
GTGAGCAAGC	TGAAGGAGCA	GTTCAAGAAC	AAGACCATCG	TGTTCAACCA	GAGCAGCGGC	1020
GGCGACCCCG	AGATCGTGAT	GCACAGCTTC	AACTGCGGCC	CGGAATTCTT	CTACTGCAAC	1080
ACCAAGCCCCC	TGTTCAACAG	CACCTGGAAC	GGCAACAACA	CCTGGAACAA	CACCAACGGC	1140
AGCAACAAACA	ATATTACCCCT	CCAGTGCAAG	ATCAAGCAGA	TCATCAACAT	GTGGCAGGAG	1200
GTGGGCAAGG	CCATGTACGC	CCCCCCCCATC	GAGGGCCAGA	TCCGGTGCAG	CAGCAACATC	1260
ACCGGTCTGC	TGCTGACCCG	CGACGGCGGC	AAGGACACCG	ACACCAACGA	CACCGAAATC	1320
TTCCGGCCCGG	GGGGCGGGCA	CATGGGGAC	AACTGGAGAT	CTGAGCTGTA	CAAGTACAAAG	1380
GTGGTGACGA	TCGAGCCCCCT	GGGCGTGGCC	CCCACCAAGG	CCAAGGGCCG	CGTGGTGCAG	1440
CGCGAGAAGC	GGGCGGCCAT	CGGCGCCCTG	TTCCCTGGGCT	TCCTGGGGGC	GGCGGGCAGC	1500

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ACCATGGGGG CGGCCAGCGT GACCGTGACC GTGGAGGCC GCCTGCTCCT GAGCGGCATC	1560
GTGCAGCAGC AGAACAAACCT CCTCCGGCCCC ATCGAGGCC ACCAGCATAT GCTCCAGCTC	1620
ACCGTGCTGG GCATCAAGCA GCTCCAGGCC CGCGTGCTGG CGTGGAGCG CTACCTGAAG	1680
GACCAGCAGC TCCCTGGCTT CTGGGGCTGC TCCGGCAAGC TGATCTCCAC CACCACGGTA	1740
CCCTGGAACG CCTCCTGGAG CAACAAAGAGC CTGGACGACA TCTGGAACAA CATGACCTGG	1800
ATGCAGTGGG AGCGCGAGAT CGATAACTAC ACCAGCCTGA TCTACAGCCT GCTGGAGAAG	1860
AGCCAGACCC ACCAGGAGAA GAACGAGCAG GAGCTGCTGG AGCTGGACAA CTGGGGAGC	1920
CTGTGGAACCT GTTTCGACAT CACCAACTGG CTGTGGTACA TCAAAATCTT CATCATGATT	1980
GTGGGGGGCC TGGTGGCCT CGCGCATCGTC TTGGCCGTGC TGACCATCGT GAACCGCGTG	2040
CGCCAGGGCT ACAGCCCCCT GAGCCTCCAG ACCCGGCCCC CCGTGGCCCG CGGGGCCGAC	2100
CGCCCCGAGG GCATCGAGGA GGAGGGCGGC GAGCCGACCC GCGACACCCAG CGGCAGGCTC	2160
GTGCACGGCT TCCCTGGGAT CATCTGGTC GACCTCCGCA GCCTGTTCCCT GTTCAGCTAC	2220
CACCACCGCG ACCTGCTGCT GATGCCGCC CGCATCGTGG AACTCCTAGG CGCCCGCGC	2280
TGGGAGGTGC TGAAGTACTG GTGGAACCTC CTCCAGTATT GGAGCCAGGA GCTGAAGTCC	2340
AGCGCCGTGA GCCTGCTGAA CGCCACCGCC ATCGCCGTGG CCGAGGGCAC CGACCGCGTG	2400
ATCGAGGTGC TCCAGAGGGC CGGGAGGGCG ATCCCTGCACA TCCCCACCCG CATCCGCCAG	2460
GGGCTCGAGA GGGCGCTGCT G	2481

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:36:

(1) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 486 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:36:

ATGAATCCAG TAATAAGTAT AACATTATTA TTAAGTGTAT TACAAATGAG TAGAGGACAA	60
AGAGTAATAA GTTTAACAGC ATGTTTAGTA AATCAAAATT TGAGATTAGA TTGTAGACAT	120
AAAAATAATA CACCTTTGCC AATACAAACAT GAATTTCAT TAACCCGTGA AAAAAAAA	180
CATGTATTAA GTGGAACATT AGGACTACCA GAACATACAT ATAGAAGTAG AGTAAATTG	240
TTTACTGATA GATTATAAAA AGTATTAACA TTAGCAAATT TTACAAACAAA AGATGAAGGA	300
GATTATATGT GTGAGCTCAG AGTAAGTGA CAAATCCAA CAAGTAGTAA TAAAACAATA	360
AAATGTAATAA GAGATAAATT AGTAAATGT GGAGGAATAA GTTTATTAGT ACAAAATACA	420
AGTTGGTTAT TATTATTATT ATTAAGTTA AGTTTTTAC AAGCAACAGA TTTTATAAGT	480
TTATGA	486

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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:37:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 485 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:37:

ATGAACCCAG TCATCAGCAT CACTCTCCTG CTTTCAGTCT TGCAGATGTC CCGAGGACAG	60
AGGGTGATCA GCCTGACAGC CTGCCTGGTG AACAGAACCT TCGACTGGAC TGCCGTCATG	120
AGAATAACAC CAACTGCCG ATCCAGCATG AGTTCAAGCCT GACCCGAGAG AAGAAGAACG	180
ACGTGCTGTC AGGCACCCCTG GGGGTTCCCG AGCACACTTA CCGCTCCCGC GTCAACCTT	240
TCAGTGACCG CTTTATCAAG GTCCCTTAATC TAGCCAACCTT GACCACCAAG GATGAGGGCG	300
ACTACATGTG TGAACCTCGA GTCTCGGGCC AGAATCCAC AAGCTCCAAT AAAACTATCA	360
ATGTGATCAG AGACAAGCTG GTCAAGTGTG GTGGCATAAG CCTGCTGGTT CAAAACACTT	420
CCTGGCTGCT GCTGCTCCCTG CTTTCCCTCT CCTTCCCTCCA AGCCACGGAC TTCATTTCTC	480
TGTGA	485

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:38:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 33 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:38:

CGCGGGGCTA CGCGAAAGAG TAATAAGTTT AAC	33
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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:39:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 28 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

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(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:39:

CCCCGATCCC TTGTATTTTG TACTAATA

28

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:40:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 762 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:40:

GAATTCACGC GTAAGCTTGC CGCCACCATG GTGAGCAAGG GCGAGGGAGCT GTTCACCGGG	60
GTGGTGCCCA TCCTGGTCGA GCTGGACGGC GACGTGAACG GCCACAAGTT CAGCGTGTCC	120
GGCGAGGGCG AGGGCGATGC CACCTACGGC AACCTGACCC TGAAGTTCAT CTGCACCACC	180
GGCAAGCTGC CGGTGCCCTG GCCCACCCCTC GTGACCACCT TCAGCTACGG CGTCCAGTGC	240
TTCAGCCGCT ACCCCGACCA CATGAAGCAG CACGACTTCT TCAAGTCCGC CATGCCGAA	300
GGCTACGTCC AGGAGCCAC CATCTTCTTC AAGGACGAGC GCAACTACAA GACCCGCGCC	360
GAGGTGAAGT TCGAGGGCGA CACCTGGTG AACCGCATCG AGCTGAAGGG CATCGACTTC	420
AAGGAGGACG GCAACATCCT GGGGCACAAG CTGGAGTACA ACTACAACAG CCACAAACGTC	480
TATATCATGG CCGACAAGCA GAAGAACGGC ATCAAGGTGA ACTTCAAGAT CCGCCACAAC	540
ATCGAGGACG GCAGCGTGC A GCTCGCCGAC CACTACCAGC AGAACACCCC CATCGGCGAC	600
GGCCCCGTGC TGCTGCCCGA CAACCACTAC CTGAGCACCC AGTCCGCCCT GAGCAANGAC	660
CCCAACGAGA AGCGCGATCA CATGGTCCCTG CTGGAGTTCG TGACCGCCGC CGGGATCACT	720
CACGGCATGG ACGAGCTGTA CAAGTAAAGC GGCGCGGGAT CC	762

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What is claimed is:

1. A synthetic gene encoding a protein normally expressed in a eukaryotic cell wherein at least one non-preferred or less preferred codon in the natural gene 5 encoding said protein has been replaced by a preferred codon encoding the same amino acid.
2. The synthetic gene of claim 1 wherein said synthetic gene is capable of expressing said eukaryotic protein at a level which is at least 110% of that 10 expressed by said natural gene in an in vitro mammalian cell culture system under identical conditions.
3. The synthetic gene of claim 1 wherein said synthetic gene is capable of expressing said eukaryotic protein at a level which is at least 150% of that 15 expressed by said natural gene in an in vitro cell culture system under identical conditions.
4. The synthetic gene of claim 1 wherein said synthetic gene is capable of expressing said eukaryotic protein at a level which is at least 200% of that 20 expressed by said natural gene in an in vitro cell culture system under identical conditions.
5. The synthetic gene of claim 1 wherein said synthetic gene is capable of expressing said eukaryotic protein at a level which is at least 500% of that 25 expressed by said natural gene in an in vitro cell culture system under identical conditions.
6. The synthetic gene of claim 1 wherein said synthetic gene is capable of expressing said eukaryotic protein at a level which is at least ten times that

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expressed by said natural gene in an in vitro cell culture system under identical conditions.

7. The synthetic gene of claim 1 wherein at least 10% of the codons in said natural gene are non-preferred 5 codons.

8. The synthetic gene of claim 8 wherein at least 50% of the codons in said natural gene are non-preferred codons.

9. The synthetic gene of claim 1 wherein at least 10 50% of the non-preferred codons and less preferred codons present in said natural gene have been replaced by preferred codons.

10. The synthetic gene of claim 1 wherein at least 90% of the non-preferred codons and less preferred 15 codons present in said natural gene have been replaced by preferred codons.

11. The synthetic gene of claim 1 wherein said protein is green fluorescent protein.

12. A method for preparing a synthetic gene 20 encoding a protein normally expressed by eukaryotic cells, comprising identifying non-preferred and less-preferred codons in the natural gene encoding said protein and replacing one or more of said non-preferred and less-preferred codons with a preferred codon encoding 25 the same amino acid as the replaced codon.

Syngp120mn

1 CTCGAGATCC ATTGTGCTCT AAAGGAGATA CCCGGCCAGA CACCCCTCACC
 51 TGGGGTGCCCC AGCTGCCCCAG GCTGAGGCCA GAGAAGGCCA GAAACCATGC
 101 CCATGGGGTC TGTGCAACCG CTGGCCACCT TGTACCTGCT GGGGGATGCTG
 151 GTCGCTTCCG TGCTAGCCAC CGAGAAGCTG TGGGTGACCG TGTACTACGG
 201 CGTGCCCCGTG TGGAGGAGG CCACCACAC CCTGTTCTGC GCCAGCGACG
 251 CCAAGGGCGTA CCAACACCGAG GTGCACAACG TGTGGGCCAC CCAGGGGTGCG
 301 GTGCCAACCG ACCCCAACCC CGAGGAGGTG GAGCTCGTGA ACGTGACCGA
 351 GAACTTCAAC ATGTGGAAGA ACAACATGGT GGAGGAGATG CATGAGGACA
 401 TCATCAGGCCT GTGGGACCAAG AGCCTGAAAGC CCTGCGTGAA GCTGACCCCC
 451 CTGTGCGTGA CCTGAACTG CACCGACCTG AGGAACACCA CCAACACCAA
 501 CAACAGCACC GCAACACAACG ACAGCAACAG CGAGGGCACC ATCAAGGGCG
 551 GCGAGATGAA CAACTGCAGC TTCAACATCA CCACCAAGCAT CCCGACAAAG
 601 ATGCAGAAGG AGTACGCCCT GCTGTACAAG CTGGATATCG TGAGCATCGA
 651 CAACGACAGC ACCAGCTACC GCCTGATCTC CTGCAACACC AGCGTGATCA
 701 CCCAGGCCCTG GCGCAAGATC AGCTTCGAGC CCATCCCCAT CCACTACTGC
 751 GCGGGCGCG GCTTCGCCAT CCTGAAGTGC ACGCACAAAGA ATTTAGCGG
 801 CAAGGGCAGC TGCAAGAACG TGAGCACCGT GCAGTGCACC CACGGCATCC
 851 GGCGGGTGGT GAGCACCCAG CCTCTGCTGA ACGGCAGCCT GCGGGAGGAG
 901 GAGGTGGTGA TCCGCAGCGA GAACTTCAAC GACAACGCCA AGACCATCAT
 951 CGTGCACCTG AATGAGAGCG TGCAAGATCAA CTGACCGGT CCCAACTACA
 1001 ACAAGCGCAA GCGCATCCAC ATCGGCCCCG GCGGGCCTT CTACACCCACC
 1051 AAGAACATCA TCGGCACCAT CCGCCAGGCC CACTGCAACG TCTCTAGAGC
 1101 CAAGTGGAAC GACACCCCTGC GCCAGATCGT GACCAAGCTG AAGGAGGAGT
 1151 TCAAGAACAA GACCATCGTG TTCAACCAGA GCGACGGGGG CGACCCCGAG
 1201 ATCGTGATGC ACAGCTTCAA CTGGGGCGGC GAATTCTCT ACTGCAACAC
 1251 CAGCCCCCTG TTCAACAGCA CCTGGAAACGG CAACAAACACC TGGAAACAAACA
 1301 CCACCGGCAG CAACAACAAAT ATTACCCCTCC AGTGCAGAGAT CAAAGCAGATC
 1351 ATCAACATGT CGCAGGAGGT GGGCAAGGCC ATGTACGCCCTT CCGACCCCGCG
 1401 GGGCCAGATC CGGTGCAGCA GCAACATCAC CGGTCTGCTG CTGACCCCGCG
 1451 ACGGCGGCAA CGACACCGAC ACCAACCGACA CCCAAATCTT CCGCCCCCGCG

FIG 1
(SHEET 1 OF 4)

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1501 GGGGGCGACA TGCGCGACAA CTGGAGATCT GAGCTGTACA AGTACAAGGT
1551 GGTGACGATC GAGCCCCCTGG GCGTGGCCCC CACCAAGGCC AAGGGGGGGC
1601 TGGTGCAGCG CAGAAGCGC TAAAGCGGCC GC (SEQ ID NO:34)

FIG 1
(SHEET 2 OF 4)

Syngp160mn

1 ACCGAGAAACC TGTGGGTGAC CTTCTACTAC CGCGTGGCGG TGTGGAAGGA
 51 GGCCACCAACG AGCTTGTCTT GCGCCAGCGA CGCCAAAGCG TACCGACACCG
 101 AGCTGACAACT CTTGTCGCGG ACCCAGGGGT CGCTGCCAC CGACCCCAAC
 151 CGCCAGGAGG TGGACCTTGT GAACTGAGC GAGAAGTTCA ACATGTGGAA
 201 GAAACAACATG CTGGAGGAGA TGTATGAGGA CTCATCAGC CTGTCGGACC
 251 AGAGCTTGAA GCGCTGTTG AGCTGACCC CGCTTGCGT GACCTTCAC
 301 TGTGACGAGC TGGAGAACAC CGCCAAACAC GAAACAGCGA CGCCGAGCA
 351 GAACTACAC AGCGAGGGCA CGTCAGGG CGCGAGATG AAGAACTGCA
 401 GTTTCACAT CACCAACAGC ATCCGCGACA AGATCCAGAA GGAUATACCC
 451 CTCTGTACA AGCTGGATAT CGTGGACATC GACAAAGACA GCAACGCGTA
 501 CGCGCTGATC TGTGCAACA CGACCGTGTG CACUCAGGCC TGCCTCCAGA
 551 TCAGCTTGA GCGCTTCCCC ATCTCTACT CGCGGGGGCG CGCTTTCGCC
 601 ATCTGTAACT GCGACGACAA GAGGTTGAGG CGCAAGGGCA CGTCCAAGAA
 651 CGTGACCAACG CGCGAGTGGCA CGCACGGAT CGCGGGCGTG CTGAGGACCC
 701 ACCTCTGTG GAAACGGACG CTGGCGGAGC AGCGAGGTGT GATTCAGAGC
 751 GAGAAGTTCA CGGACAAAGC CAAGACCATC ATCGTCGACC TGAATGAGAG
 801 CGTGGAGATC AACTGCAAGC GTCCCAACTA CAACAAGGCG AAGGGCATCC
 851 ACATCGCCCC CGCGGGGGCC TTCTACACCA CCAAGAACAT CTCGGCACC
 901 ATCCGCGGAG CGCGCTGCGA CTCCTCTAGA CGCAAGTGGG AGGACACCT
 951 CGGCCACATC GTGACCAAGT TGAAGGGAGCA GTTCAGAGAC AAGACCACCG
 1001 TCTTCRACCA GAGCGGGCG CGCGACCCCG AGATCTGTAT CGACAGCTTC
 1051 AACTGCGCGG CGGAATTCTT CTACTGCAAC ACCAGGGGGC TGTGCAACAG
 1101 CACCTGGAAAC GCGCAAGACA CGTGGAAACAA CACCACTGG ACCAACAAACA
 1151 ATATTACCTT CGACTGCAAG ATCAAGGAGA TCACTAACAT GTGGCAGGAG
 1201 GTGGGCAAGG CGCTGTACCC CGCGGGTACG GACGGCGAGA TCCCGTGCAC
 1251 CACCAACATC ACCGCTGTGC CGCTGACCG CGACGGGGCG AAGGACACCG
 1301 ACACCAAGCA CACCGAAATC TCCGGGGGGCG CGGGCGGAGA CATGCGCGAC
 1351 AACTGGAGAT CTGAGCTGTA CAACTACAAAG TTGGGTGACGA TCGAGCCCT
 1401 CGCGCTGGCC CGCGACCAAGC CGAAGGGCGS CGTGGTGCAG CGCGAGAAGC

1451 CGGCCGCCAT CGGCCGCTG TTCTGGGCT TCTGGGGGC CGGGGGCAGC
1501 ACCATGGGG CGGCCAGCGT GACCTGACC GTGCAGGGCC CGCTGCTCCT
1551 GAGGGGCATC GTGCAGCAGC AGAACAACT CCTCCGGGCC ATCGAGGGCC
1601 AGCAGCATAT QTCCAGCTC ACCGTGTGGG GCATCAAGCA GCTCCAGGCC
1651 CGCGTGTGG CGTGGAGCG CTACCTGAAG GACCGAGCAGC TCTGGGCTT
1701 CTGGGGCTGC TCGGCAAGC TGATCTGCAC CACACCGCTA CGCTGGAAAG
1751 CCTCCCTGGAG CAACAAGAGC CTGGACGACA TCTGGAAACAA CATGACCTGG
1801 ATGCCAGTGGG AGCGCGAGAT CGATAACTAC ACCAGCTGA TCTACAGCT
1851 GCTGGAGAAG AGCCAGACCC ACCAGGAGAA GAACGAGCAG GACCTGTGG
1901 AGCTGGACAA CTGGGGGAGC CTGTGGAACG GGTTCGACAT CACCAACTGG
1951 CTGTGGTACA TCAAAATCTT CATCATGATT CGGGGGGGCC TGGTGGGCCCT
2001 CGGCATCGTG TTGCGCTGCG TGAGCATCGT GAACGGGGTG CGCCAGGGCT
2051 ACAGCCCCCT GAGCCTCCAG ACCCGGGGGCC CGCTGGGGCG CGGGCCCCGAC
2101 CGCCCCGGAGG CGATCGAGGA GGAGGGGGCC GAGCGCGACC GCGACACCAG
2151 CGGCAGGCTC GTGCACGGCT TCTGGCGAT CATCTGGGTC GACCTCCGCA
2201 GCCTGTTCTT QTTCAGCTAC CACCACCGCG ACCCTGCTGCT GATGCCGCC
2251 CGGCATCGTG AACTCCTAGG CGCCCGGGCC TGGGAGGTGC TGAAGTACTG
2301 GTGGAACCTC CTCCAGTATT GGAGCCAGGA GCTGAAGTCC AGCGCGGTGA
2351 CGCTGCTGAA CGCCACCGCC ATCGCCGTGG CCGAGGGCAC CGACCCGGTG
2401 ATCGAGGTGC TCCAGAGGGC CGGGAGGGCG ACCCTGCACA TCCCCACCCG
2451 CATCCGCCAG CGCTCGAGA CGCGCGCTGCT G (SEQ ID NO:35)

FIG. 1

(SHEET 4 OF 4)

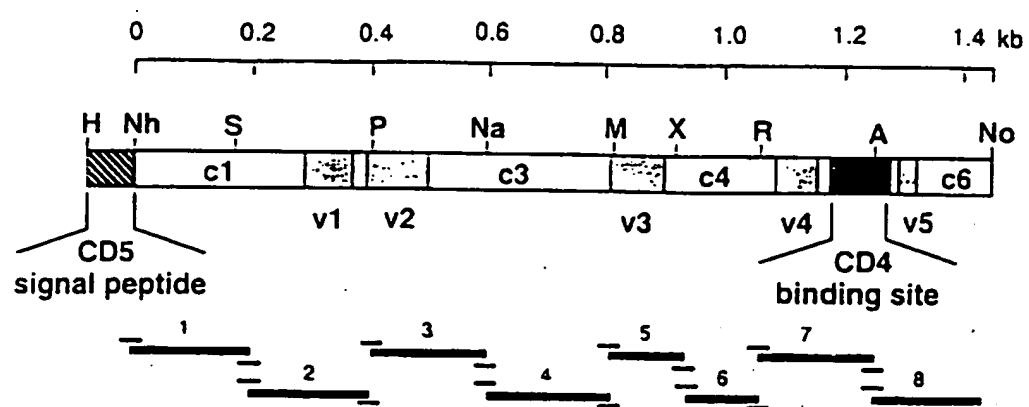


FIGURE 2

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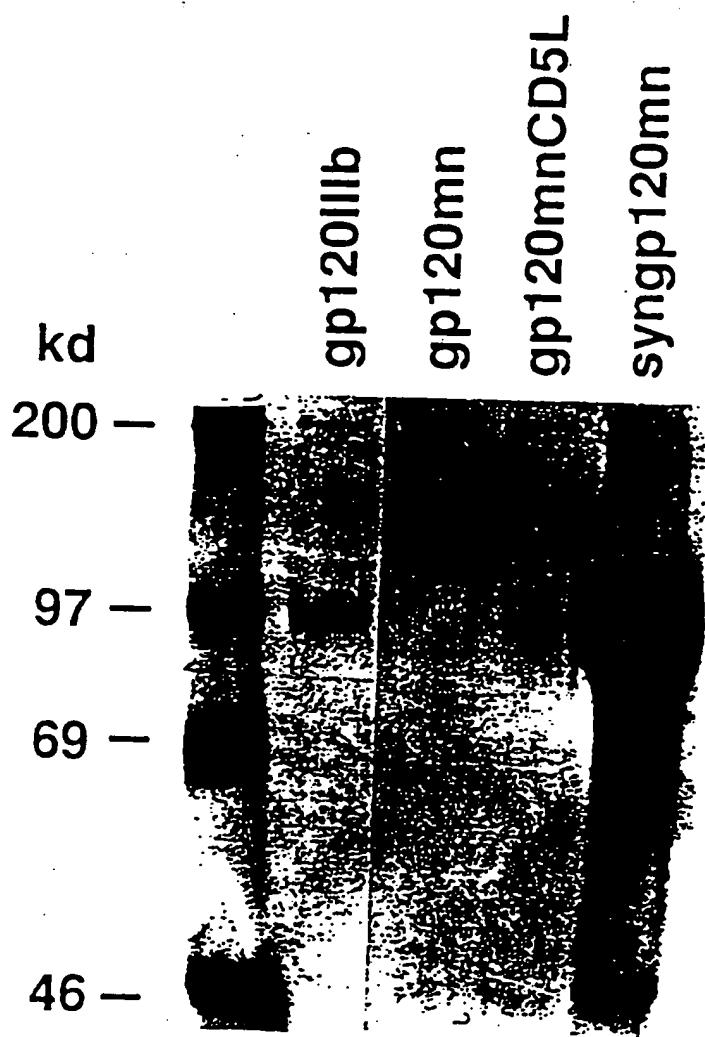


FIGURE 3

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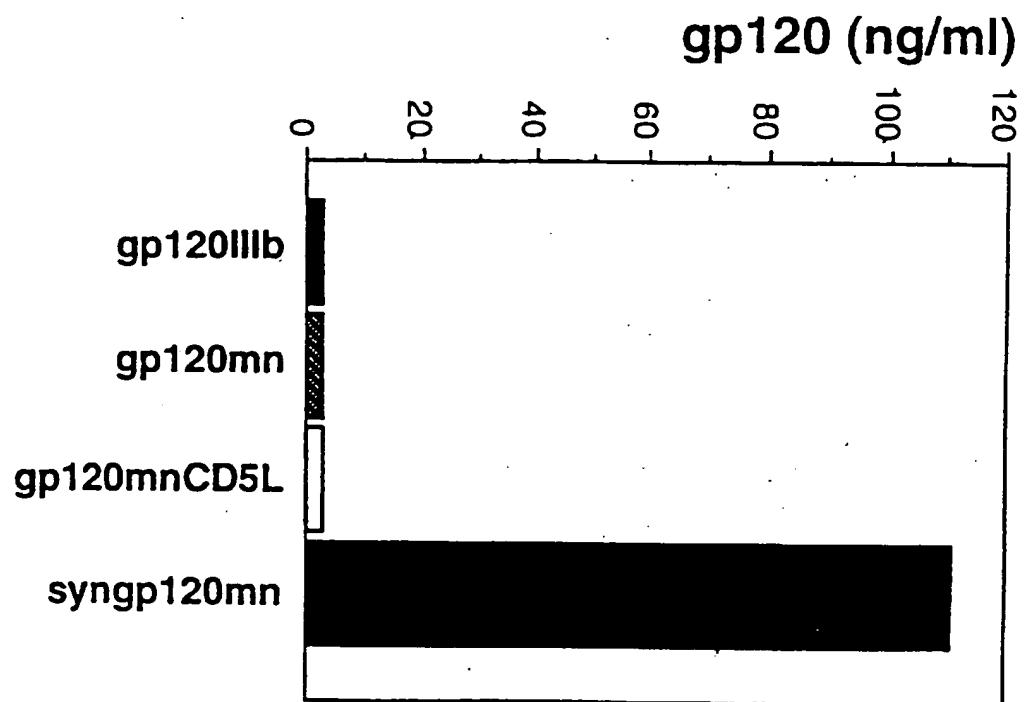


FIGURE 4

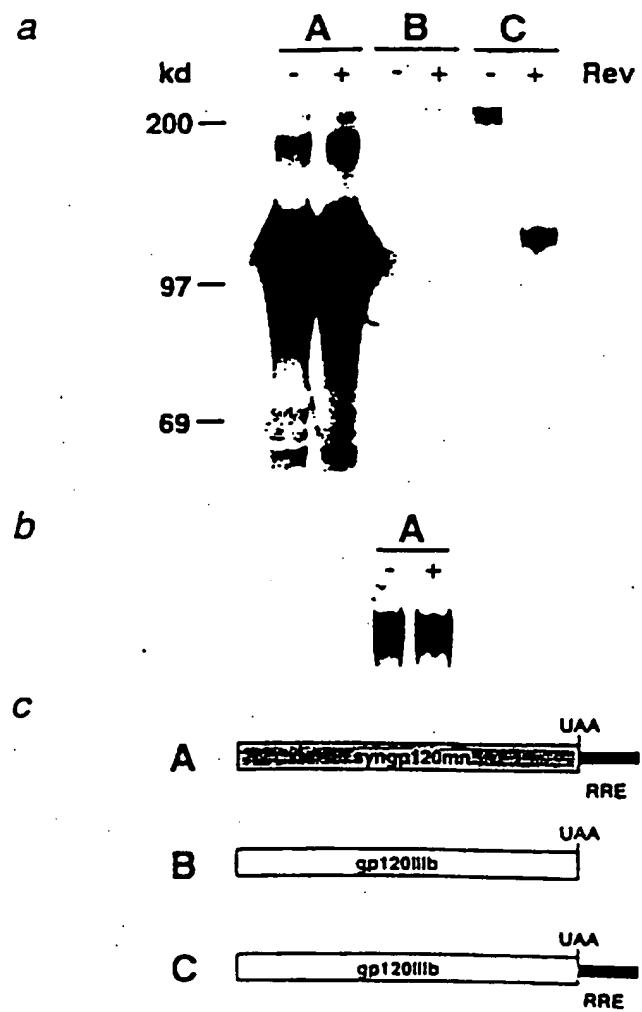


FIGURE 5

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	M	N	P	V	I	S	I	T	L	L	S	V	L	Q	M	S	R	G	
(SEQ ID NO:36)	atg	aat	cca	gtt	ata	agt	ata	aca	tta	tta	ttt								
(SEQ ID NO:37)	wt	→	atg	aat	cca	gtc	atc	agg	atc	act	ttt								
env	R	V	I	S	L	T	A	C	L	V	N	Q	N	L	R	L	D	C	
wt	agg	gtt	ata	agg	tta	aca	gca	tgt	tta	gtt	aat	caa	aat	ttt	ttt	ttt	ttt	ttt	
env	E	N	N	T	N	L	P	I	Q	H	E	F	S	L	T'	R	E	K	
wt	gag	aat	aca	cct	tgt	cca	ata	caa	cat	gaa	ttt	tca	tta	acg	cgt	gaa	aaa	aaa	
env	H	V	L	S	G	T	L	G	V	P	E	H	T	Y	R	S	R	V	
wt	cac	gtt	tta	agg	gga	aca	tta	gga	gtt	cca	gaa	cat	aca	tat	aga	agt	aga	ttt	
env	F	S	D	R	F	I	K	V	L	T	L	A	N	F	T'	T	K	D	
wt	ttt	agt	gat	aga	tcc	ata	aaa	gtt	tta	aca	tta	gca	aat	ttt	aca	aca	aaa	ttt	
env	D	Y	M	C	E	L	R	V	S	G	Q	N	P	T	T	K	D	E	
wt	ttt																		
env	N	V	I	R	D	K	L	V	K	C	C	G	I	S	S	N	K	T	
wt	aat	gtt	ata	aga	gat	aaa	tta	gtt	aaa	tgt	ggg	ggg	ata	agt	aat	aaa	aca	ata	
env	S	W	L	L	L	L	L	S	L	S	F	L	Q	A	T	D	P	I	
wt	agt	tgg	tta	tta	tta	tta	tta	ttt											
env	L	*	tta	tga	ttt	tga	ttt	tga	ttt	tcc									
wt			ttt	tga	ttt	tga	ttt	tga	ttt	tcc									

FIGURE 6

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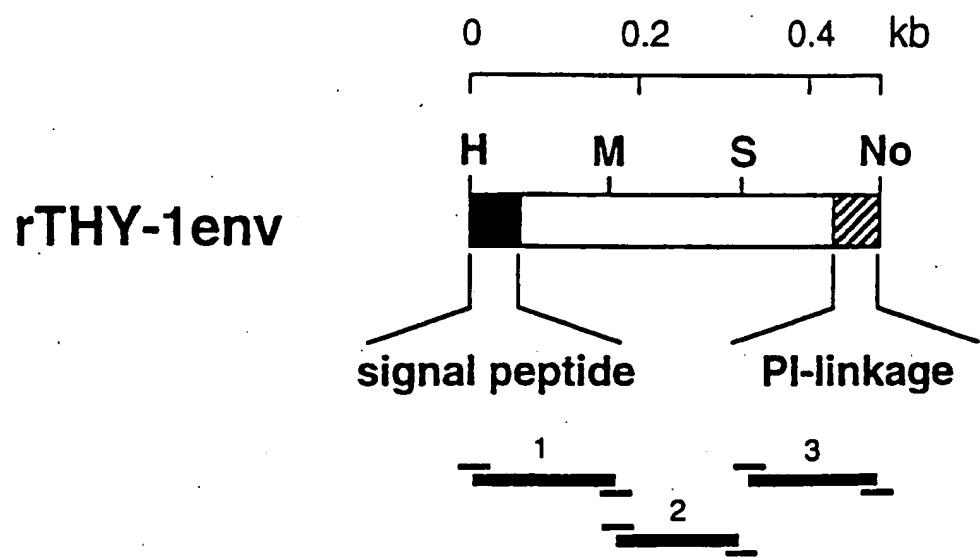


FIGURE 7

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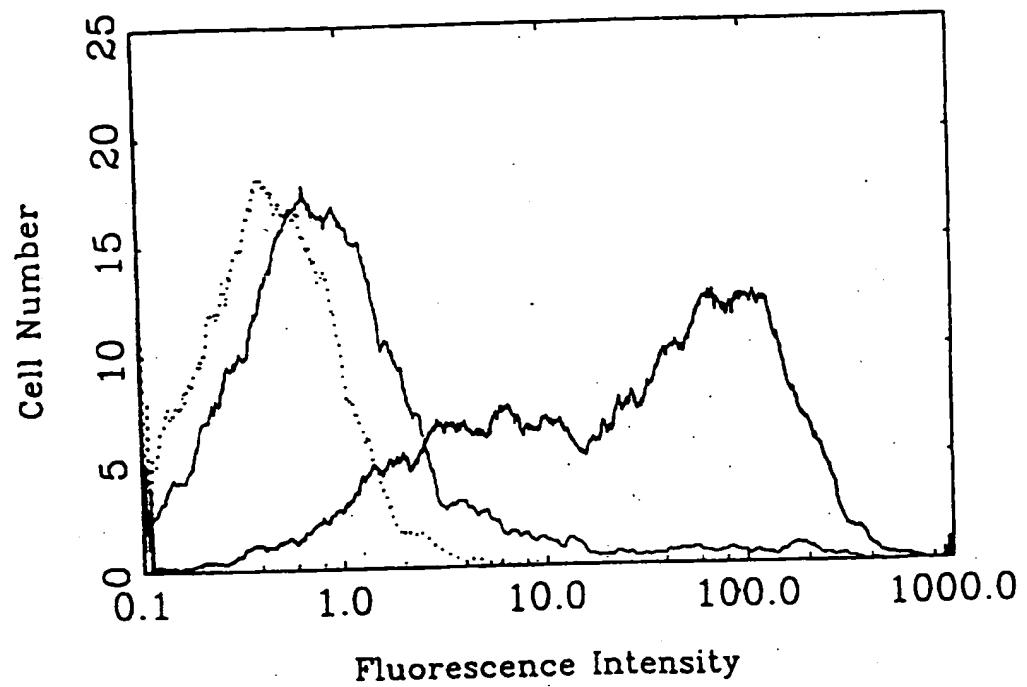


FIGURE 8

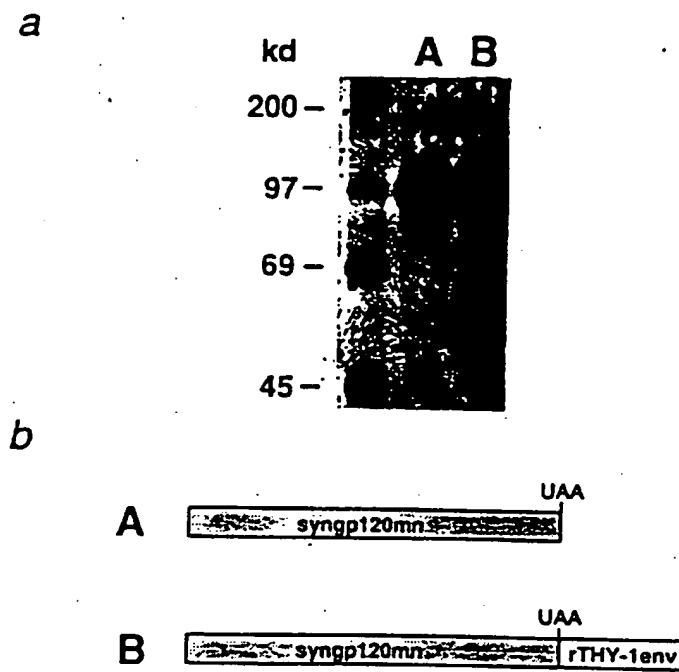
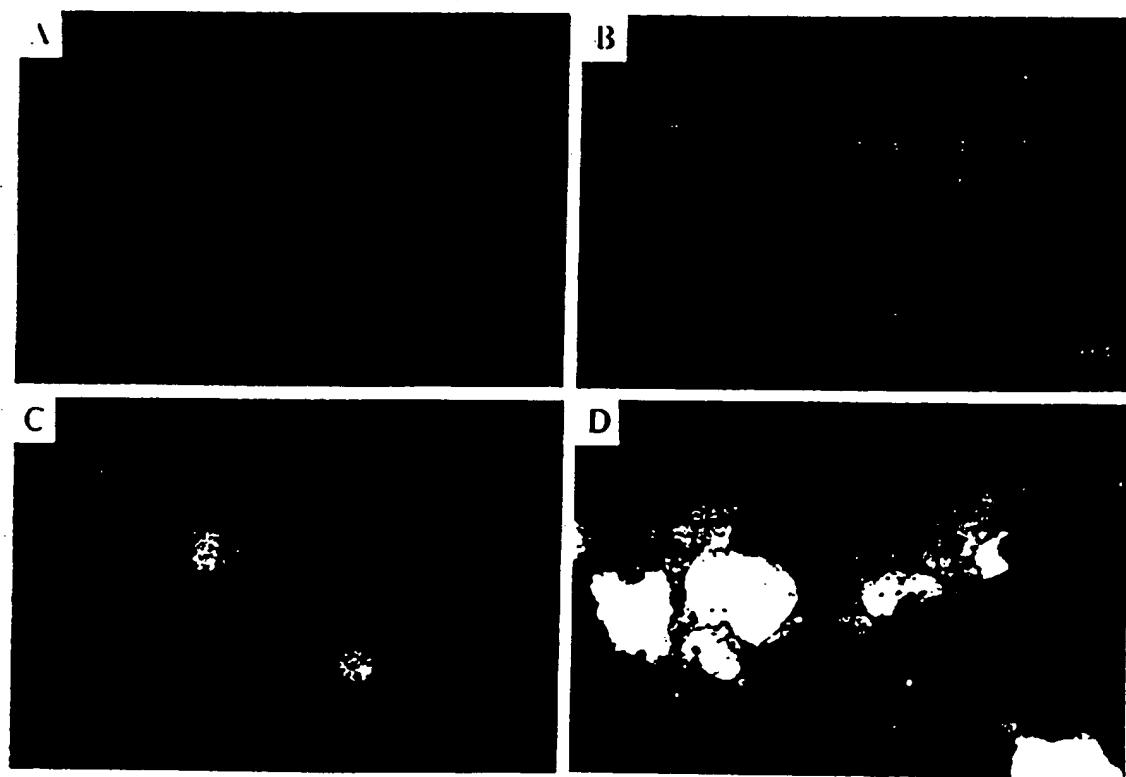


FIGURE 9

FIG. 10



1 GAATTCACGC GTAAGCTTGC CGCCACCATG GTGAGCAAGG GCGAGGAGCT
51 GTTCACCGGG GTGGTGCCCCA TCCTGGTCTGA GCTGGACGGC GACGTGAACG
101 GCCACAAGTT CAGCGTGTCC GGCGAGGGCG AGGGCGATGC CACCTACGGC
151 AAGCTGACCC TGAAGTTCAT CTGCACCAAC GGCAAGCTGC CCGTGCCCTG
201 GCCCACCCCTC GTGACCAACCT TCAGCTACGG CGTGCAGTGC TTCAGCCGCT
251 ACCCGACCA CATGAAGCAG CACGACTTCT TCAAGTCCGC CATGCCGAA
301 GGCTACGTCC AGGAGCGCAC CATCTTCTTC AAGGACGACG GCAACTACAA
351 GACCCGGGCC GAGGTGAAGT TCGAGGGCGA CACCCCTGGTG AACCGCATCG
401 AGCTGAAGGG CATCGACTTC AAGGAGGACG GCAACATCCT GGGGCACAAG
451 CTGGAGTACA ACTACAACAG CCACAACGTC TATATCATGG CCGACAAGCA
501 GAAGAACGGC ATCAAGGTGA ACTTCAAGAT CCGCCACAAC ATCGAGGACG
551 GCAGCGTGCA GCTCGCCGAC CACTACCAGC AGAACACCCC CATCGGCGAC
601 GGCCCCGTGC TGCTGCCCGA CAACCACTAC CTGAGCACCC AGTCCGCCCT
651 GAGCAAAGAC CCCAACGAGA AGCGCGATCA CATGGTCCTG CTGGAGTTCG
701 TGACCGCCGC CGGGATCACT CACGGCATGG ACGAGCTGTA CAAGTAAAGC
751 GGCCGCGGAT CC (SEQ ID NO: 40)

FIG. 11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US96/15088

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : C07H 21/00, 21/04

US CL : 536/23.1, 23.5

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 536/23.1, 23.5

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Dialog, Medline, Biosis, Embase, Scisearch, WPIDS, APS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	HOLLER et al. HIV1 Integrase Expressed in Escherichia coli From a Synthetic Gene. Gene. 1993, Vol.136, pages 323-328, especially pages 323-327.	1-10, 12
X	SCORER et al. The Intracellular Production and Secretion of HIV-1 Envelope Protein in the Methylotrophic Yeast Pichia pastoris. Gene. 1993, Vol.136, pages 111-119, especially pages 111-118.	1-10, 12
X	HERNAN et al. Human Hemoglobin Expression in Escherichia coli: Importance of Optimal Codon Usage. Biochemistry. 1992, Vol.31, pages 8619-8628, especially pages 8619-8627.	1-10, 12

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P	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
26 NOVEMBER 1996	23 JAN 1997

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US96/15088

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WILLIAMS et al. Design, Synthesis and Expression of a Human Interleukin-2 Gene Incorporating the Codon Usage Bias Found in Highly Expressed Escherichia coli Genes. Nucleic Acids Research. 1988, Vol.16, No.22, pages 10453-10467, especially pages 10453-10466.	1-10, 12 ----
X	RANGWALA et al. High-Level Production of Active HIV-1 Protease In Escherichia coli. Gene. 1992, Vol.122, pages 263-269, especially pages 263-268.	1-10, 12
P, X	US 5,464,774 A (BAIRD et al.) 07 November 1995 (07/11/95), see entire document, especially insert at top of columns 13 and 14; column 7 lines 27-51.	1-10, 12
Y	INOUE et al. Aequorea Green Fluorescent Protein Expression of the Gene and Fluorescence Characteristics of the Recombinant Protein. FEBS Letters. 1994, Vol.341, pages 277-280, especially pages 277-279.	11

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